2015

AMERICAN BOARD OF ADDICTION MEDICINE

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
HERE AT ABAM, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS LIFELONG LEARNING.
Dear ABAM Diplomate,

All medical boards offering certification to physicians have a common mission and purpose – to serve the public interest by promoting excellence in the practice of a given specialty.

To attain certification status as a physician specialist, physicians must meet several requirements: licensing and fulfillment of a training requirement; successful completion of an examination confirming that a physician has a mastery of the basic knowledge and skills of the specialization area; and a commitment to lifelong learning and assessment. By meeting these requirements, physicians assure their patients that they have met the highest standards of professionalism in addiction medicine.

The American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program, envisioned at the inception of ABAM and launched in 2011, is an important part of meeting those requirements. It is also a step forward on the path to recognition by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Certification by an ABMS member board is recognized as the “gold standard” in physician credentialing. To meet the highest standards and to prepare for ABMS membership, ABAM is implementing the ABAM MOC program for all of its Diplomates. The ABAM MOC program is comprised of four basic parts:

PART I: LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONALISM
PART II: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF-ASSESSMENT
PART III: COGNITIVE EXPERTISE
PART IV: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Participation in Part I: Licensure and Professionalism assures the public, patients, families, and colleagues that you provide the highest quality care and adherence to professional guidelines and standards. With heightened expectations in the prevention and treatment of addiction, ABMS states that Diplomates “contribute to better patient care and improved medical practice by helping to assure the Public that diplomates exhibit professionalism in their medical practice, including acting in the patients’ best interests; behaving professionally with patients, families, and colleagues across the health professions; taking appropriate self-care; and representing their board certification and Maintenance of Certification status in a professional manner. These standards also contribute to improved access to quality health care for patients by facilitating re-entry to certification and medical practice for former diplomates of ABMS Member Boards.”

Fulfilling the Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment ensures the public that you are an active participant in improving professionalism and standards in the field of addiction medicine. You are raising the bar in professionalism and knowledge in preventing and treating the disease of addiction. ABMS states that these standards “contribute to better patient care by requiring ongoing diplomate participation in high quality, unbiased learning and self-assessment activities that are relevant to the diplomate’s specialty and areas of practice within the specialty.”

This program booklet provides updates regarding the 2015 ABAM MOC Program and what it means for the addiction medicine doctor. As part of ABAM’s effort to support Diplomates in the area of MOC, a step-by-step MOC activity and processing guide is available on the new Portal https://portal.abam.net. ABAM is dedicated to providing a user-friendly manual through which Diplomates can streamline the process for meeting all MOC requirements.

Sincerely,

Patrick G. O’Connor, M.D., M.P.H., FACP
President
American Board of Addiction Medicine

Robert Sokol, M.D., FACOG
Chair
ABAM MOC Committee
OUR MISSION

ABAM is an independent specialty board, established in 2007. ABAM’s mission is to promote the training and certification of physicians in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of substance-related disorders. This mission addresses the enormous public health burden presented by tobacco, alcohol, and other substance use disorders and related conditions.

ABAM offers physicians from all medical specialties a formal education, training and certification pathway. The involvement of the medical profession is essential in meeting the needs of individual patients, families and communities (another pathway for physician certification in addictive disorders is via addiction psychiatry, a certification process available only to psychiatrists). Addiction is a disease with a high prevalence of biomedical complications, mental health issues, and social co-morbidities; ABAM recognizes the need for more highly-qualified physicians to address this growing public health challenge. The training, continuing education, and certification efforts of ABAM and its Diplomates contribute to the improvement of the quality of patient care and promote the public welfare.

The ABAM standards and procedures for initial certification and maintenance of certification (MOC) have been established by, and are implemented through, the ABAM Board of Directors and the ABAM MOC Committee.

NOTIFICATIONS

We use email to communicate in a timely and efficient manner with you. It is your responsibility to provide ABAM with an active and valid email address, and to notify us when your address changes. Communication via email can be interrupted by security settings and spam-blocking features, so we encourage you to place ABAM on a Safe Senders list in order to enable receipt of email correspondence from ABAM.

CERTIFICATION

To remain certified by the American Board of Addiction Medicine, all Diplomates must comply with the Maintenance of Certification requirements as detailed in this booklet.

FACT: IN 2012, 88% OF DIPLOMATES COMPLETED MOC REQUIREMENTS
WHAT IS MOC & WHAT DOES IT MEANS TO YOU?

As stated by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), Maintenance of Certification assures that board certified physicians are committed to lifelong learning and competency in a specialty by requiring ongoing measurement of the six core competencies adopted by the ABMS and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Measurement of these competencies takes place in a variety of ways, and varies according to the specialty.

The ABAM MOC Committee has been carefully designing a program that offers flexibility and accommodation, giving credit for addiction-related MOC activities, when applicable. The components of ABAM MOC address the six core competencies: professionalism, interpersonal skills, communication skills, systems-based practice, patient care and procedural skills.

All ABAM Diplomates, including those with a time-unlimited certificate, must participate and complete Part I: Licensure and Professionalism. Time-limited Diplomates* must successfully complete all four parts of the ABAM MOC Program over a 10-year cycle. The chart on Page 6 illustrates the various requirements of the ABAM MOC Program.

*Time-Limited Diplomates are those who first certified in 1998 or later.
PART I: LICENSURE & PROFESSIONALISM

A) Diplomates must possess a valid, full and unrestricted medical license in the USA, its territories, or Canada.  
B) If a physician holds one or more additional licenses, each must be valid, full and unrestricted.  
C) ABAM verifies licensure on an annual basis.

PART IV: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

A) This is in development and has not yet launched. Diplomates will participate in a range of ABAM-approved performance improvement projects designed to assess and improve the quality of patient care.

PART II: LIFELONG LEARNING & SELF-ASSESSMENT: 26 TOTAL

A) Diplomates must complete 9 credits of Self-Assessment from a pool of ABAM-selected articles that will count towards the 26 CME requirement.  
B) A score of 75% or higher must be attained on the self-assessment test for it to be counted and receive 1 CME credit. A retake option is available.  
C) 9 AMAPRA Category 1 ABAM-approved credits™ must be completed in addiction medicine every year.  
D) 8 AMAPRA Category 1 credits™ can be self-reported, as long as they contain addiction components.  
E) Diplomates can earn additional CME by completing over than 9 SAMs.

PART III: COGNITIVE EXPERTISE

A) In year eight, nine or 10 of the MOC cycle, Diplomates must pass the cognitive examination. This examination is conveniently administered at over 400 prometric testing centers.

THE ONGOING 4-PART MOC PROCESS
THE FOUR PARTS OF ABAM’S MOC PROGRAM

PART I: LICENSURE AND PROFESSIONALISM
Diplomates must possess a valid, full and unrestricted medical license in the United States, its territories, or Canada. If a physician holds one or more additional licenses, each must be valid and unrestricted. An unrestricted medical license is a license to practice medicine that has been issued by an appropriate and authorized licensing board, and contains no restrictions on the physician’s privilege to practice professionally.

PART II: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SELF-ASSESSMENT (LLSA) – 26 TOTAL CREDITS DUE PER YEAR
A. SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: 9 SAMs/yr
Starting in 2015, diplomates enrolled in the MOC program are required to complete 9 credits of Self-Assessment Activities on an annual basis. This is completed by selecting 9 SAMs from the Self-Assessment listing on the MOC web portal. ABAM encourages all diplomates to choose articles that are most relevant to their practice. The articles can be used in an “open book format” when taking the exam for every self-assessment module.

A score of 75% or higher must be attained on the self-assessment exam for each article in order to achieve a passing score and receive credit. Diplomates will have the opportunity to retake the exam one time if passing is not achieved on the first attempt.

Diplomates may select and complete more than the 9 required articles. By doing so, they receive one additional Category 1 CME credit for each article beyond the required 9. This credit will be applied to the total 26 CME hours required in Section B of Part II.

B. CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDITS: 17 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ – Addiction-Related
1. 9 ABAM-Approved CME Activities
2. Up to 8 Self-Reported CME Activities

Beginning in 2015, each Diplomate is required to complete 17 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ in addiction medicine once per year. 9 CME must come from ABAM-approved activities. The other 8 CME credits can be self-reported, as long as the activity is related to addiction medicine and is Category 1. Diplomates can also complete additional SAMs beyond the required 9 credits to fulfill this requirement.

PART III: COGNITIVE EXPERTISE
In year eight, nine or 10 of the MOC cycle, Diplomates must pass the secure cognitive exam. This exam is conveniently administered at over 400 prometric testing centers.

PART IV: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
Part IV of the ABAM MOC Program is in development and has not yet launched. Diplomates will participate in a range of ABAM-approved performance improvement activities designed to assess and improve the quality of patient care.

EVIDENCE OF LICENSURE IS VERIFIED BY ABAM THROUGH THE FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS (FSMB) ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.
The chart below illustrates the frequency in which ABAM Diplomates must meet the MOC requirements during the 10-Year MOC cycle.

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<th>PART IV</th>
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<td>LICENSE VERIFICATION &amp; MOC FEE</td>
<td>ANNUAL BASIS</td>
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<td>SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY</td>
<td>9 CREDITS PER YEAR</td>
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<td>IN DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>ADDICTION MEDICINE CME ACTIVITY</td>
<td>17 CREDITS PER YEAR (ADDICTION-RELATED CME)</td>
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<td>A. 9 ABAM-APPROVED</td>
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<td>B. 8 Self-Report Option</td>
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<td>PASS COGNITIVE EXAM</td>
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<td>ONCE, DURING YEARS 8-10</td>
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TIME-LIMITED DIPLOMATES AND MOC
Diplomates who are Time-Limited are those who have the current, standard certificate, which has a term of 10 years. A majority of ABAM Diplomates hold this type of certification. All Time-Limited Diplomates (those initially certified in 1998 or later) are required to participate in all four parts of the MOC program. In order to maintain continuous certification during the 10-year period of the present certificate, Time-Limited Diplomates must participate in MOC on an annual basis and complete the annual requirements.

NOT TIME-LIMITED DIPLOMATES AND MOC
Diplomates who are not Time-Limited are those who received their initial addiction medicine certification from ASAM in 1996 or earlier and have a certification that will not expire. This cohort of Diplomates is only required to participate in Part I of the ABAM MOC Program.

ABAM strongly encourages these Diplomates to participate in the full MOC Program. Diplomates with lifetime certification who fully participate in ABAM’s MOC Program are not only staying current they are contributing to the attainment of formal recognition for addiction medicine, a goal they and their colleagues have pursued for more than 60 years. They are truly contributing to the advancement and future of addiction medicine.

“Given the push for greater accountability in medicine, MOC will become a differential competitive advantage among physicians. Participation in the ABAM MOC Program is a wise decision in anticipation of future expectations.”

– PATRICK G. O’CONNOR, M.D., M.P.H., FACP
WHY THE ANNUAL FEE?
ABAM is a relatively small board, and does not have revenue streams as high as those of larger or older boards with tens of thousands of Diplomates. Recognizing the increased financial costs that must be borne for each enrolled Diplomate, ABAM has worked diligently and successfully to keep its MOC fees in line with those of other boards. To provide a high-quality MOC program, ABAM Directors performed a financial analysis to determine the necessary price structure for fundamental sustainment of ABAM. This includes staffing to appropriately manage MOC operations and significant costs to develop the MOC program’s information technology infrastructure.

The fee is assessed in annual installments over one’s 10-year cycle of MOC. A Diplomate must remain current with these payments throughout the MOC cycle, in order for certification to remain valid.

IN ORDER TO REMAIN CERTIFIED, ALL ABAM DIPLOMATES—TIME-LIMITED OR NOT—MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PART I AND MUST PAY THE ANNUAL MOC FEE.

THE ABAM MOC FEE COVERS:
• Part I, verification of licensure; Part II Self-Assessment Activities and tracking of CME; and Part III, the MOC examination fee (i.e., there is no additional fee due at the time of registration for the cognitive examination, previously called the “recertification exam”).
• ABAM’s partnership with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). FSMB generates the Disciplinary Alert Service (DAS) reports that track changes in a physician’s licensure.
• Unlimited access to the Diplomate Web Portal. The portal provides: tracking, notification, and access to educational activities, self-assessment activities, cognitive examination information and practice improvement activities.
• Each diplomate has his or her own personal profile, which may be accessed through a secure Web Portal login. The personal page is used to track progress through all four components of MOC during the 10-year cycle.
• Consistent contact from ABAM to help you understand and stay up-to-date with meeting annual MOC requirements.
• Access to an extensive listing of Addiction related Continuing Medical Education Activities.

ANNUAL MOC FEE

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<th>TIME-LIMITED DIPLOMATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>NOT TIME-LIMITED DIPLOMATES</td>
<td>$425</td>
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<tr>
<td>FULL MOC PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>PART I ONLY</td>
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WHAT YOUR MOC FEE COVERS

- Fee for license verification with FSMB 2%
- Committee Meetings and Travel 5%
- Development of Self-Assessment Tools and Continuing Medical Education 7%
- Development of Practice Improvement Modules 7%
- Diplomate Communications 8%
- Diplomate Tracker and Information Technology 9%
- Development of the Cognitive Examination 11%
- Administration, Board of Directors, and Other 15%
- Human Resources to Support the Maintenance of Certification Program and Diplomates 36%

MOC FEE: ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS OVER A 10-YEAR PERIOD.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION BENEFITS
• Distinguishes physicians who aspire to stay current.
• Increases physician knowledge and competence through focused continuing medical education (CME).
• Helps advance the professional recognition of addiction medicine.
• Provides an avenue by which Diplomates are already in compliance with the anticipated future requirement to either be participating in a MOC process or a comparable means of demonstrating continued competency.
• Recognition as a medical specialist leader participating in the national movement for improved healthcare quality.
• MOC is acknowledged by insurers, hospitals, quality and credentialing organizations, and the federal government as an important quality marker.
THE ABAM DIPLOMATE WEB PORTAL

In February 2015, ABAM updated the Diplomate Web Portal to include the 2015 MOC requirements and welcome a new class of Diplomates. This personal web portal serves not only as a tool that assists Diplomates in meeting their MOC requirements, but also a mechanism that will allow for continuous professional development. ABAM hopes that all Diplomates find value in the portal by using it to track and enhance their medical education needs. And most importantly, it is designed as a tool that can assist Diplomates in improving the quality of care they provide to patients and their families. If you have not yet received login information, please contact ABAM immediately at ABAMMOC@ABAM.NET or 301-656-3378.

HELPFUL HINTS

MOC DEADLINE
COMPLETE MOC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY DECEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR

ABAM MOC PROGRAM QUESTIONS & INFO
PH: 301-656-3378
EMAIL: ABAMMOC@ABAM.NET

VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.ABAM.NET