



Physicians Dedicated to
Excellence in Dermatology™

Maintenance of Certification Frequently Asked Questions

What is Maintenance of Certification (MOC)?

The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a program of education and professional development designed to assess the competence of physicians on an ongoing basis. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has identified six general competencies: medical knowledge, patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, practice-based learning and improvements, and system-based practice.

What are the requirements for MOC?

For Maintenance of Certification, the six competencies are placed into four areas of assessment. The four components are:

1. Evidence of Professional Standing
2. Evidence of Commitment to Lifelong-Learning and Periodic Self-Assessment
3. Evidence of Cognitive Expertise
4. Evaluation of Performance in Practice

The American Board of Dermatology (ABD) has established the Maintenance of Certification (MOC-D) program in Dermatology, which includes each of these components, to take place over a 10-year cycle.

Requirements for each of the four components can be found at www.abderm.org.

MOC Is the Path. Better Care Is the Destination.*

Certification Matters. And ultimately, the measure of physician specialists is not merely that they have been certified, but how well they keep current in their specialty.

That's why in 2006, ABMS' 24 Member Boards adopted a program of continuous professional development — ABMS Maintenance of Certification™ — as a formal means of measuring a physician's continued competency in his or her certified specialty and/or subspecialty. By following MOC, physicians demonstrate their commitment to lifelong learning and ongoing self-assessment to advance specialty practice. They live the standards by which medical care is evaluated and demonstrate leadership in the national movement for healthcare quality and patient safety.

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Do I need to participate in MOC?

Lifetime certificates issued to diplomates prior to 1991 are valid during the diplomate's lifetime. Diplomates who hold a lifetime certificate are not required to participate in the MOC process. Lifetime certificate holders are entitled to retain their lifetime certificates regardless of whether they pass or fail a MOC examination. Those diplomates with time limited certificates (received initial certification in 1991 or later) will be required to participate in the MOC-D process.

How do I know which type of certificate I have?

Check your certificate. If it has an expiration date, you are required to complete MOC.



MOC is in transition. What do I specifically need to complete?

The American Board of Dermatology has posted tables on their website that aids diplomates in understanding where they are in their transition to MOC-D.

You can easily access this information:

- Go to www.abderm.org
- Click on the tab titled Maintenance of Certification
- You will see a tab that says Requirements
- Click on the words "Year Specific"
- Select the link that best identifies you

After you have selected the appropriate link, a timetable opens that is specific to your certificate expiration date. There is also a link for diplomates who hold lifetime certificates.

How do I complete MOC?

Below is an example of how individuals would maintain their certification.

Timetable for Diplomates Entering MOC-D Program, January 1, 2007								Reprinted with permission from American Board of Dermatology		
Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Self-assessment module			Self-assessment module			Self-assessment module		
					Performance in Practice Activity		Follow-up Performance in Practice Activity			
	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours	CME 40 hours
								EXAMINATION		
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

What is the Academy doing to help me?

The Academy's main goal is to provide convenient opportunities for members to fulfill MOC-D. One option that fulfills Component 2 is the Academy's premier self-assessment program, Maintenance of Certification Manual for Dermatology™ (MOCMD™). Another option is providing self-assessment activities that fulfill Component 2 at the Annual and Summer Meetings. These activities will cover topics in general dermatology, pediatric dermatology, dermatopathology, dermatologic surgery, and cosmetic dermatology.

In the works...

The Academy is also working on resources to help members meet Component 4 of MOC-D, Evaluation of Performance in Practice. The Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Task Force is developing an online module program designed to fulfill Component 4. The program is expected to launch in the Spring of 2009.

MOC-D, questions anyone?

Please email any questions you would like the Academy to address to educationdept@aad.org.