



## The American Board of Preventive Medicine Maintenance of Certification

### *Requirements in effect for physicians who certified from 1998-2006*

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is the board certification process for assessment of continuing competencies of physicians and replaces recertification. All Member Boards of the ABMS must provide an MOC program for their diplomates. ABPM Diplomates with time-limited certificates [beginning with those certified in 1998] must complete the MOC program within 10 years of their initial certification and every 10 years thereafter. The MOC program requirements will continue to evolve in concert with ABMS requirements. The MOC program is offered to all diplomates who have been issued ten-year, time-limited certificates and completion of the MOC program is required to maintain a valid certificate. Voluntary participation is also offered to diplomates who hold lifetime certificates. Diplomates may participate in the MOC program in any of the specialty areas in which they hold a valid ABPM certificate – Aerospace Medicine, Occupational Medicine, or Public Health and General Preventive Medicine – or in the subspecialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. Upon successful completion of the MOC program, a renewed certificate will be issued that is valid for ten years from the date of issuance.

The ABPM MOC program, in compliance with ABMS requirements as currently defined, includes the following four components:

#### **Part 1: Professional Standing**

- Diplomates must hold an active, valid and unrestricted medical license in all States, US territories, or Canadian Provinces in which the diplomate is licensed to practice medicine.
- Diplomates will attest that their licenses meet the criteria stated above throughout the entire time-period of their certification.
- ABPM will verify licenses each time a diplomate registers for the MOC examination.

#### **Part 2: Lifelong Learning and Self-assessment (LLSA)**

Diplomates must complete 100 hours of ABPM-approved LLSA/MOC activities over the 10 year cycle (see footnote on page 2 for phase in of LLSA/MOC credits). ABPM has agreements in place with our three specialty societies (the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and the Aerospace Medical Association) to provide more opportunities for LLSA. Courses and sessions at each society's annual meetings are designated as ABPM LLSA/MOC credit if they cover an area of the Board's examination content outline and include self-assessment questions covering the content of the session or course. The specialty societies also offer a variety of LLSA/MOC distance-learning opportunities. Contact the appropriate specialty society for details on distance-learning opportunities.

There are several providers of LLSA/MOC activities in addition to the specialty societies. A complete listing of LLSA/MOC activities is posted on the ABPM MOC web site at <https://www.theabpm.org/epiq4/index.cfm>

In addition to modules listed on the ABPM website, the Board may consider granting LLSA/MOC credit for completion of CME provide by Federal agencies, if the content is relevant to the specialty of preventive medicine and includes self assessment questions.

### Part 3: Assessment of Cognitive Expertise

Diplomates holding time-limited certificates will be required to take and pass a cognitive exam.

- Diplomates may begin taking the examination seven (7) years after receiving their initial certification, and may repeat the examination if necessary to pass it prior to the expiration of their certificate. The LLSA/MOC activity requirement does not need to be fulfilled prior to taking the examination.
- The MOC examinations are secure, proctored, 100-question multiple choice examinations offered in conjunction with ACPM, ACOEM, and AsMA annual meetings. The dates of future MOC examinations get posted on the ABPM web site as they become available.

### Part 4: Assessment of Practice Performance

This component of the MOC Program applies to those diplomates whose certificates expire in 2011 or later or those diplomates who allow their certification to lapse and do not fulfill all MOC components prior to January 1, 2011.

Diplomates are required to complete a practice performance assessment. This component utilizes a quality improvement model with opportunities for assessment of practice performance and improvement activities available in clinical practice, teaching, research, and administration. Specific programs are provided by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the American College of Preventive Medicine and the Aerospace Medical Association.

More information concerning the MOC program, fees and approved LLSA/MOC activities may be found on the ABPM website <https://www.theabpm.org/index.cfm> Please contact the ABPM if you have additional questions. We request that you maintain a current file with the ABPM including address, phone number, and e-mail address. The ABPM will send diplomates periodic updates about the MOC program.

#### ***\*Phase-in of LLSA/MOC credits for physicians certified between 1998 and 2003***

<b>Certification Year</b>	<b>Expiration Year</b>	<b>LLSA/MOC credits needed</b>
1998	2008	50
1999	2009	60
2000	2010	70
2001	2011	80
2002	2012	90
2003 & beyond	2013 & beyond	100