



TRACERS

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

2014 Issue 1



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Changes in Part 2 MOC Requirements

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There are two important changes in the ABNM MOC program that should decrease the burden of MOC – adoption of a 5-year look-back, and acceptance of self-assessment CME (SA-CME). The ABNM has changed the requirement for participation in MOC Part 2, Lifelong-Learning and Self-Assessment, and Part 4, Practice Performance Assessment, from cumulative to a 5-year look-back. The website will continue to keep your historical records, but participation in MOC will be determined only from the previous 5 year period.

The ABNM accepts self-assessment modules (SAM) qualified by any member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) for the self-assessment Part 2 requirement. The ABNM SAM credits are equal to the CME credits for the SAM. In addition, the ABNM now accepts types 2 and 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ (SA-CME) (see below) for the self-assessment requirement. Both SAM and SA-CME credit count toward the 8 self-assessment credits per year requirement.

The American Medical Association (AMA) Physician Recognition Award (PRA) and credit system define two types of CME credits that must include self-assessment – type 2, enduring materials, and type 3, journal-based CME. Enduring materials include print, audio, video and Internet materials, such as monographs, podcasts, CD-ROMs, DVDs, archived webinars, as well as other web-based activities. Journal-based CME comes from peer-reviewed, professional journal articles.

The difference between traditional self-assessment modules (SAMs) and SA-CME only relates to the organization that approves the credit. Traditional SAMs are approved by the ABNM or by any other member board of the ABMS. For example, a live presentation at meetings that includes self-assessment (AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ type 1) is an example of activity that the ABNM may approve for SAM credit. AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ including types 2 and 3 is approved by organizations accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME).

The MOC self-assessment requirements instituted in 2013 by the American Board of Radiology (ABR) are now very similar to those of the ABNM. The ABR defines 3-year requirements (25 self-assessment credits); the ABNM defines yearly requirements (8 self-assessment credits). But over 3 years the ABNM requirement, 24 self-assessment credits is very similar to the ABR requirement, 25 self-assessment credits. Although the requirements are very similar, the ABNM takes a broader view of specialty specific credits. Any CME that is useful for your practice is Nuclear Medicine specific. For example, correlative imaging is an important part of Nuclear Medicine; thus, correlative imaging CME is Nuclear Medicine specific.

The alphabet soup isn't of any importance. What is important for the ABNM diplomate is that activities called self-assessment modules, SAM, SA-CME, or type 2 or 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ all count toward the yearly 8 SAM credit requirement in Part 2 of MOC.

Some difficulties in reporting these credits electronically through the CME Gateway are being worked out. The old ABNM website did not report these credits properly. If you use the CME Gateway, do not self enter the self-assessment credits. The new website should properly credit these credits from the CME Gateway, including for credits earned in prior years.