

ABMS to Report Whether Diplomates are Participating in MOC

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Beginning on September 1, 2011, ABMS will begin publically reporting whether or not diplomates of ABMS boards are participating in MOC (see below):



The information can be found on the "Certification Matters" page of the ABMS website <http://www.certificationmatters.org/>. The ABNM has sent ABMS a list of 1382 diplomates who have met ABNM's requirements for participation in MOC in 2010.

Most of the elements of ABNM's MOC program began in 2007. The requirements used to determine whether a diplomate is participating in MOC are listed online at http://www.abnm.org/docs/participating_MOC.pdf. In brief, the requirement is that diplomates must not be any more than 3 years behind in any of the elements of MOC. The one exception to this 3 year grace period is the MOC examination. If a diplomate does not pass the MOC examination in the year required, that diplomate will no longer meet the requirements for participation in MOC.

Part IV of MOC - Practice Performance Assessment (PPA) only began this year. The only requirement for this year is to log onto your personal profile on the ABNM website and indicate how you learned about the quality improvement process. In subsequent years, the current plan is to complete 3 PPA projects in the remaining 9 years of our 10 year cycle. CMS is requiring that diplomates with time limited certificates who are participating in their MOC-plus complete 4 PPA projects in each 10 year cycle.

Beginning in August 2011, the ABNM implemented an automated email system that will alert every diplomate every other month if he/she has fallen a year or more behind in any of the required elements of MOC. Because this email notification system was not in place until August, the only requirement for participation in MOC this year is that diplomates cannot be 3 or more years behind payment of the annual MOC fee. Diplomates who are behind at meeting the rest of the MOC requirements will have an additional 2 years to catch up.

It is very likely that MOC will evolve into a continuous process. In the future board certificates will have no dates. Whether you are certified by the Board will simply depend on whether a diplomate is meeting the MOC requirements of the Board. The fact that the ABMS is now publically making information about participation in MOC available should increase the value of MOC. As indicated in another article in this newsletter, other very important entities (CMS) are now placing value on participating in MOC.

In the bottom of the right hand corner of this newsletter is the ABMS starmark logo. The six points on the star are symbolic of the six competencies and the loop at the top is symbolic of the continuous nature of MOC. Diplomates who are participating in MOC should consider including the starmark logo on their stationary, business cards and advertising. The starmark is copyrighted and its value is increasing.



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