



Associate Executive Director's Message



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Examinations

Of the 96 candidates who took the certifying examination, 84% passed, and among the first time takers the pass rate was 89%. The list of new ABNM diplomates can be found on the ABNM website <http://www.abnm.org/docs/Winter2013/CEExamPassList.pdf>.

We continue to be very pleased with the performance of the diplomates taking the maintenance of certification exam. This year 100 took the exam and 99% passed. The list of diplomates passing the MOC exam can be found on the ABNM website <http://www.abnm.org/docs/Winter2013/MOCExamPassList.pdf>.

Maintenance of Certification Requirements: MOC consists of 4 parts:

- I. Professional standing
- II. Lifelong learning and self-assessment
- III. Cognitive expertise
- IV. Practice performance assessment

The [MOC FAQ Brochure](#) details the requirements. Following is a brief reminder:

The current requirement for **professional standing** is documented by licensure. All medical licenses should be free from practice restrictions to the practice of medicine. The ABNM reviews all actions taken by state medical licensing boards. If a state medical licensing board takes an action against your license, you should notify the ABNM within 30 days. Professional standing must be documented annually using your MyMOC profile on the ABNM website.

The current requirements for **lifelong learning and self-assessment** are:

- 25 Category 1 CME credits (including nuclear medicine and SAM credits)
- 17.5 Category 1 CME credits related to nuclear medicine (including SAM credits)
- 8.0 Self-Assessment Modules (SAM's) related to nuclear medicine

The ABNM uses a very liberal interpretation of what CME is related to nuclear medicine. For example, learning about the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of patients with lung cancer is very relevant to nuclear medicine. Correlative imaging is also an important part of nuclear medicine and credits related to correlative imaging should be included in the nuclear medicine credits.

Periodically, there have been problems with accurately recording CME credits downloaded through the CMEgateway on the ABNM website. We hope these will be corrected shortly. You may [e-mail](#) (preferred) or call the office with any issues.

The ABNM is making a major effort to redesign its website this year. The goal is not only to make the website more useful for users but also to make it more easily maintainable and modifiable in the future.

Cognitive expertise is demonstrated by a periodic, secure, psychometrically valid examination. The MOC exam is sometimes considered the most important part of the process; however, the other portions of MOC are really the ways in which diplomates remain current. The current requirement is passing the MOC exam every 10 years. Note that the exam can be taken up to 2 years ahead of the required time without affecting the schedule for the next exam. Taking the exam early can reduce anxiety about passing the exam.

In addition to initially learning about **practice performance assessment (PPA)** projects, the Board has defined 3 activities that comprise a PPA project:

0. Learn about PPA (2011 or 1st year after certification)
1. Select a project, and do baseline measures
2. Analyze the measurements, develop an improvement plan, and implement the improvement plan
3. Re-measure the same parameters measured during the baseline, analyze the results, and determine if the improvement meets the goals

The current requirement is to complete one “activity” each year. A complete project fulfills the requirement for 3 years, but a project does not necessarily require 3 years, and diplomates may be involved in more than one project at a time. More information about [PPA projects](#) can be found in the MOC section of the website.

For diplomates who were certified in 2010 and before, the PPA activity for 2011 was to learn about PPA projects. By the end of 2012, a project should have been selected and baseline measurement completed. By the end of 2013, analysis of the measurements, develop and implement an improvement plan should be completed.

Patient Safety and Patient Experience of Care

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has adopted specification for each board to incorporate a patient safety component in its MOC activities. The Board is working on a method for meeting this requirement that will be relevant to the practice of nuclear medicine.

The Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) defined by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the inclusion of a patient experience of care (PEC) activity each year. The Board is also working on a method for diplomates to meet this requirement. “See Patient Experience of Care Surveys” article on the ABNM website.