

## Future of Participation in MOC

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At its July meeting, the ABNM decided to accept participation in Canadian MOC as meeting the ABNM requirements for Part 2, lifelong learning and self-assessment, and Part 4, practice performance assessment. Canadian diplomates will need to provide annual documentation of participation.

### Future of Participation in MOC

Participation in MOC will become more important for diplomates with time-limited and non-time-limited certificates. For diplomates with time-limited certificates, participation will be required to maintain certification. For non-time-limited diplomates, participation in MOC is expected to have increasing importance for credentialing, reimbursement, and possibly licensure. **Starting in 2014, participation in MOC will be a requirement for taking the MOC exam.** Currently the only requirement to take the MOC exam is that a diplomate be up-to-date with their MOC fees.

Although continuous progress on MOC is expected, the ABNM will allow diplomates a **3-year grace period**. A diplomate will be considered to be “participating in MOC” as long as the cumulative achieved CME credits are less than 3 years behind the required credits. The MyMOC section of the ABNM website shows the gap between achieved and required credits. Email reminders every two months will be sent to diplomates with a gap of more than one year in any of the requirements ([see Message from the Associate Executive Director: Improvements in website](#)) in the near future. The emails each two months are intended to be helpful reminders, but a checkbox on MyMOC gives each diplomate the option to receive only the annual summary. “Participation in MOC” status is reported to the ABMS and is publically available from the [Certification Matters](#) page.

### *Practice Performance Assessment (PPA)*

This is the second year that there has been a requirement for Part 4 of MOC, Practice Performance Assessment (PPA). Last year, the requirement was to learn about PPA. PPA projects are quality improvement projects that emphasized identification and measurement of quality measures before and after the implementation of an improvement plan.

The ABNM divides each PPA project into three activities:

1. Selection of a quality improvement project and the parameters to be measured, and collection of baseline measurements.
2. Analysis of the baseline measurements, development of a plan for improvement, and implementation of the plan.
3. Re-measurement of the parameters, and analysis of the results.



Diplomates in the second year of their part IV activities need to provide the following information in the Part IV section of their MyMOC profile to get one credit for the activities they have completed this year.

1. Which of the following describes your progress this year with regard to your current PPA project? (*Please check all that you have accomplished during this year*)

- I have completed a PPA project, and am in the process of choosing another
- I have chosen an appropriate project

Name of Your Project \_\_\_\_\_

- I have made baseline measurements to document the scope of the problem I have analyzed the root cause of the problem
- I have developed an action plan for improvement
- I have instituted the action plan
- I have made measurements to determine if improvement has occurred
  
- For the first year of a 3 year PPA cycle, the following activities would be expected
- I have chosen an appropriate project.

Name of Your Project \_\_\_\_\_

- I have made baseline measurements to document the scope of the problem

Please note that in order to qualify for the CMS incentive for participating in MOC, you must complete a PPA activity every year even if you complete an entire PPA project in one year.

Each of the three activities provided one PPA credit. The ABNM MOC requirement is 1 PPA activity (credit) each year. A complete PPA project consists of 3 activities and provides 3 credits, which meet the Part 4 requirement for 3 years. Depending on the project, different activities will require different amounts of time to complete. If you are participating in [MOC:PQRS](#), CMS requires you to earn a PPA credit EVERY YEAR.

An important goal of the ABNM PPA requirement is that the project should relate to improving the diplomate's own practice. A diplomate can design his/her own project. The [ABNM](#) website has description for the design of PPA projects. However, there are also several already designed projects that the diplomate can select. Already designed projects can be found on web pages at [SNMMI](#), [RSNA](#), [ACR](#), [ICANL](#), as well as others. The advantage of a predefined project, which has been qualified by ABNM, is that the design will not need to be audited. In addition to ABNM qualified projects, the ABNM accepts PPA projects qualified by other ABMS member boards, e.g. [ABR OPI](#) projects. A longterm goal is for PPA projects to provide national benchmarks for quality nuclear medicine. Central databases will eventually provide valuable feedback on how your practice compares to the practice of your peers.

