



# The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC) EXAM APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

**ARE YOU QUALIFIED?** – Prior to completing an application for the ABNM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Examination, you should refer to the ABNM website [www.abnm.org](http://www.abnm.org) (click the “MOC” tab) to determine if you are ELIGIBLE to take the MOC Exam. The application submittal fee (\$500) is NON-REFUNDABLE; even if it is determined you are ineligible to take the exam.

### *Table of Contents*

EXAM SCHEDULE .....	2
EXAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.....	2
EXAM FEES.....	3
DOCUMENTS .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS .....	3
APPLICATION STATUS .....	3
APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL.....	4
STUDY MATERIALS.....	4
RESULTS .....	4

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## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC) EXAM APPLICATION FAQ’S

Below are frequently asked questions (FAQ’s) regarding the ABNM MOC exam:

### EXAM SCHEDULE

- 1. When can I apply for the MOC exam?** All applicants must submit an on-line application for the MOC exam. The application is available on line at the ABNM website ([www.abnm.org](http://www.abnm.org)) starting early April and will be closed at midnight (EST) May 31<sup>st</sup>. The ABNM no longer has paper exam applications.
- 2. Can I submit an application after the May 31 deadline?** Yes, you can submit an application to the MOC exam from June 1–30, but a late fee of \$500 will be assessed. **NO APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 30.**
- 3. How often is the MOC exam given?** Once a year, usually during the first full week in October.

### EXAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. What do I need to do before I apply for the MOC Exam?** You must be participating in the ABNM MOC program to be eligible to take the MOC Exam. Participation in MOC includes the following:

#### MOC and My Profile

All Diplomates who are board certified by the ABNM (regardless of the status of your certification) have a profile on the ABNM website ([www.abnm.org](http://www.abnm.org)).

- a. You must be up-to date with Part 1, Part 2, and Part 4 of your MOC profile.
- b. **All MOC fees must be paid** before your MOC Exam application will be accepted.

To access your profile go to <https://www.abnm.org/account/profile/login>. **Note: Do not create a profile/account. Enter your email address in the space provided and your password. If you cannot remember your password, click “Forgot Password?”. Follow the instructions on the screen to receive a password reset.**

- 2. My certificate has expired, am I still eligible to take the MOC Exam?** If your certificate expired within the last 5 years, you will be eligible to take the MOC exam. If your certificate expired greater than 5 years, you must take the Certification Exam and pass the exam before your certificate will be reinstated.
- 3. My certificate does not expire until next year; will I be able to take the exam before it expires?** You may take the MOC exam at any time. The ABNM recommends that diplomates take the MOC examination two years prior to when their certificate expires to allow the diplomate to retake the examination if necessary. If they pass the MOC examination, the expiration date on their new certificate will be 10 years after the expiration date of their old certificate so that there is no penalty for taking the examination up to two years before required.
- 4. Do I need to be currently practicing nuclear medicine to take the MOC exam?** No.

## EXAM FEES

[\(See MOC Examination Schedule and Fees online\)](#)

1. **How much does the exam cost?** \$615. Over 10 years the increased annual MOC fee will replace the exam fee. More information can be found at [www.abnm.org](http://www.abnm.org).
2. **Can I pay my fees over the phone?** No, the ABNM will not accept fee payments over the phone. Instructions on payment options are listed in the online application.
3. **Is there a fee if a check is returned for insufficient funds?** Yes – the fee is \$100.
4. **Why is the application processing fee (\$500) non-refundable?** Administrative costs are incurred when an application is submitted and processed. This fee is to cover those costs.
5. **Can I pay the balance of my application fees payment after the application submission deadline of May 31?** Yes, you have until July 15 to pay the balance of your application fees. A **late fee of \$500** will be added to the exam fee from July 16-July 31. Applications will be rejected if all fees are not paid by July 31.
6. **What happens if I withdraw my application after July 31?** All fees for applications withdrawn after this date are non-refundable and cannot be applied to future examinations.

## LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

1. **What is the medical license requirement?** In the online application, list all of the currently valid unrestricted state or provincial medical licenses that you have. Do not send documentation unless asked to do so by the ABNM.
2. **Are licenses other than US or Canadian licenses accepted?** If you practice medicine exclusively in another country, your license will be accepted.
3. **I have/or had restrictions on my medical license. Will I still be eligible to take the MOC exam?** The ABNM receives reports of disciplinary actions taken by state medical licensing boards. Any certificate issued by the Board is subject to revocation should the Board determine that a physician who has received a certificate was in some respect not properly qualified to receive or retain it. Diplomates have an obligation to notify the Board within 60 days of all disciplinary actions taken by medical licensing boards and to inform the Board when such actions expire or are otherwise removed. Individuals who have not made this disclosure shall be required to explain why they have failed to do so. Any certificate revoked by the Board must be returned to the Board.

## APPLICATION STATUS

1. **How will I know the status of my application?** During the application period you will be receiving emails regarding missing/received documents/fees due.
2. **Can I call the ABNM office to inquire about my application status?** Application status information is not released over the phone by the ABNM to ensure confidentiality during the process.
3. **Why is my application status “Not Submitted”?** You must complete every page of the application and click the “submit application” button or it will not be reviewed. **APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE REVIEWED UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.**
4. **What happens when I submit by application?** The ABNM will notify you of any missing documents. When all documents are received, the ABNM reviews your application. Then you will receive an email notification if your application has been accepted or rejected. This process can take a number of weeks depending on when your application is complete.
5. **What does the “Under Review” status mean?** The ABNM is reviewing the pages of your application and waiting for documents to be received.
6. **What does the “Action Needed” status mean?** The ABNM has not received documents or material pertinent to the review of your application. You will receive an email when a page needs your attention.
7. **How soon will I know my application has been accepted or rejected?** Once your application is submitted it will be reviewed. You will then receive an email notifying you that your application has been **ACCEPTED or REJECTED.**

This process can take a number of weeks and is dependent on when the application is complete. **THE SOONER YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE RECEIVED; THE SOONER REVIEW OF YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED.**

8. **Once I have been notified my application has been accepted, what happens next?** The first week in August, registration letters are sent to all candidates. This letter will list detailed instructions on how to register for the exam (including choosing your exam day and location) and will list your registration number (Candidate ID number).

## **APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL**

1. **How do I withdraw my application?** You should contact the ABNM in writing requesting your application be withdrawn from consideration. An email request is preferred.
2. **If I withdraw my application will the fees be refunded?** The application processing fee (\$500) is non-refundable, regardless of when you withdraw your application. If you withdraw your application before July 31, part of your application fee will be refundable. If you withdraw your application after July 31, none of your fees will be refundable. **Non-refundable fees cannot be applied to future examinations.**

## **STUDY MATERIALS**

1. **What resources are available for me to study for the exam?** The ABNM has study guide with a list of key articles and a few sample questions listed on our website. You can contact the Society for Nuclear Medicine (SNM) for additional resources. You should also complete the tutorial for the computer-based examination on the Measurement Research Associates website: <http://www.measurementresearch.com/testing/tutorial.shtml>.
2. **What other options will help me prepare for the exam?** Each January the ABNM offers diplomates the opportunity to take an in training exam (ITE) in which trainees of the Nuclear Medicine programs participate. ITE enrollment schedule and fee information is available on the ABNM website in September or you can contact the ABNM office.

## **RESULTS**

1. **Once the exam is complete, how soon will I receive the results?** The exam results letters are mailed to candidates 2 months after exam week.
2. **Do I receive a certificate when I pass the exam?** Yes, a certificate noting your accomplishment will be mailed with your results letter.
3. **What happens to my status if I fail the exam?** If you have a **time-limited certificate** that has not yet expired, there will be no change in your status. If you have a time-limited certificate that has expired, you will not be listed as being certified by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine until you pass the exam.

If you have a **lifetime certificate**, you will still be listed as being certified by the American Board of Nuclear Medicine but your profile will state "Not Required" to meet annual MOC milestones.