



**American Board
of Medical Specialties**

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties

222 N. LaSalle, Suite 1500

Chicago, IL 60601

T: (312) 436-2600

F: (312) 436-2700

www.abms.org

ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and Continuous Maintenance of Certification (C-MOC) Overview

Updated May 2013

ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Display				
 American Board of Medical Specialties <i>Higher standards. Better care.®</i>				
<u>American Board of</u>	<u>Time Limited Certificate End- Dates</u>	<u>Displaying Meeting the MOC Requirements</u>	<u>Displaying C-MOC</u>	<u>Annual C-MOC Reverification Date</u>
Allergy and Immunology	12/31	Yes		
Anesthesiology	12/31	Yes		
Colon and Rectal Surgery	12/31	Yes		
Dermatology	12/31	Yes		
Emergency Medicine	12/31	Yes		
Family Medicine	12/31	Yes	Yes	2/15
Internal Medicine	12/31	No (2014)	Yes, Focused Pathway in Hospital Medicine	4/1
Medical Genetics	12/31	Yes		
Neurological Surgery	12/31	Yes		
Nuclear Medicine	12/31	Yes		
Obstetrics and Gynecology	12/31	Yes		
Ophthalmology	12/31	Yes		
Orthopaedic Surgery	12/31	No (9/2013)		
Otolaryngology	12/31	Yes		
Pathology	12/31	No (2014)		
Pediatrics	12/31	No (2013)	Yes	2/15
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	06/30, 11/30, 12/31	Yes		
Plastic Surgery	12/31	Yes		
Preventive Medicine	1/31	Yes		
Psychiatry and Neurology	12/31	Yes	Yes	3/1
Radiology	12/31	Yes	Yes	3/15
Surgery	7/1	Yes		
Thoracic Surgery	12/31	Yes		
Urology	2/28	Yes		



Display of MOC FAQs

Which ABMS Member Boards are making available whether the doctors they certify are meeting their ABMS MOC requirements?

- American Board of Allergy and Immunology (8/2012)
- American Board of Anesthesiology (11/2012)
- American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery (8/2012)
- American Board of Emergency Medicine (8/2012)
- American Board of Medical Genetics (8/2012)
- American Board of Neurological Surgery (8/2012)
- American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (8/2012)
- American Board of Ophthalmology (8/2012)
- American Board of Preventive Medicine (8/2012)
- American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (8/2012)
- American Board of Radiology (3/2013)
- American Board of Thoracic Surgery (8/2012)
- American Board of Urology (8/2012)
- American Board of Dermatology (8/2011)
- American Board of Family Medicine (8/2011)
- American Board of Nuclear Medicine (8/2011)
- American Board of Otolaryngology (8/2011)
- American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (8/2011)
- American Board of Plastic Surgery (8/2011)
- American Board of Surgery (8/2011)

When will the remaining ABMS Member Boards make available whether the doctors they certify are meeting their MOC requirements?

- American Board of Internal Medicine (2014)
- American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (9/2013)
- American Board of Pathology (2014)
- American Board of Pediatrics (2013)



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Why is ABMS displaying this information publicly?

The reason for displaying a doctor's MOC status is to provide the public and other stakeholders easy access to important information about individual doctors. The sharing of this information supports ABMS' overall mission to provide information to the public, the government, the profession and its Members concerning issues involving the certification of doctors.

ABMS will eventually serve as a one-stop site to check the MOC status of a doctor Board Certified by any of the 24 ABMS Member Boards.

What does "meeting MOC requirements" mean?

It means a doctor is keeping up with the requirements of his or her medical specialty Board(s) for ongoing learning and assessment. When the 24 ABMS Member Boards adopted the standards outlined in the ABMS MOC program, they each launched an MOC program that was tailored to the needs of their medical specialty and subspecialties. The doctor's certifying Board(s) determines whether or not he or she is meeting its MOC requirements. A doctor meeting MOC requirements shows a commitment to lifelong learning and ongoing self-evaluation, and is engaged in measuring and improving his or her practice.

How are customers supposed to utilize this information?

Although it is not universally required as part of the credentialing process, the ABMS MOC program is recognized as an important quality marker by insurers, hospitals, quality and credentialing organizations as well as the federal government.

Why does the Display of MOC on a doctor's profile not include effective dates of certification?

The ABMS MOC program is part of a rigorous process that continually assesses and enhances doctors' medical knowledge, judgment, professionalism, clinical techniques and communication skills. Therefore, it is separate from a doctor's general and subspecialty certification(s).

How will the meeting MOC requirements be displayed on a doctor's profile?

The meeting MOC requirements display will include the status of all the doctor's specialty (and subspecialty, if any) certificates. For each specialty and subspecialty certificate listed, either a "Yes", "No" or "Not Required" response will be given as to whether that doctor is meeting the MOC requirements of his or her Member Board for that certificate. The doctor's certifying Board(s) determines whether or not he or she is meeting its MOC requirements.

At the bottom of each doctor's profile, a disclaimer will note that, for some ABMS Member Boards, doctors who were Board Certified before those Member Boards established their MOC programs may not be required to participate in the ABMS MOC program created by their Member Board(s). The disclaimer will link to www.abms.org, which will list the contact information for its 24 Member Boards.



What does it mean if a doctor is listed as meeting MOC requirements?

It means the doctor is keeping up with the requirements of his or her medical specialty Board(s) for ongoing learning and assessment. The ABMS MOC program promotes lifelong learning and improvement activities, the opportunity for self-assessment and helps demonstrate that doctors Board Certified by an ABMS Member Board(s) continually refresh and expand their knowledge. A doctor meeting MOC requirements shows a commitment to lifelong learning and ongoing self-evaluation, and is engaged in measuring and improving his or her practice.

What does it mean if a doctor is listed as not meeting MOC requirements?

By being Board Certified, the doctor has gone above and beyond licensing requirements. All doctors in the United States must be licensed in order to practice medicine, but they are not required to be Board Certified.

There are a variety of reasons why a doctor may be listed as not meeting MOC requirements. He or she may have chosen not to participate in the MOC program of his or her Member Board(s). Or, he or she may be participating in MOC, but is not meeting the requirements to maintain his or her certificate(s). Contact the doctor's certifying Board(s) for more information about its MOC program.

What does it mean if a doctor is listed as not required to meet MOC requirements?

It means that the doctor became Board Certified in his or her specialty before his or her certifying Board established its MOC program. According to the policy of that doctor's certifying Board, he or she is therefore not required to participate in its MOC program.

Why is a doctor's profile missing the meeting MOC requirements display?

The doctor's certifying Board(s) has not made his or her MOC status available to ABMS. Examples of why the information has not been provided to ABMS could include technical issues, delays in confirming the MOC status of a Board Certified doctor or other factors specific to the doctor. ABMS will display publicly whether that doctor is meeting MOC requirements as soon as it receives the information from his or her certifying Board(s).

The remaining four ABMS Member Boards expect to make the MOC status of the doctors they certify available in the future.

What is a C-MOC reverification date?

ABMS Member Boards that have eliminated end dates recognize that some entities may still need a certification end date to complete Primary Source Verification. To assist in this process, we encourage credentialers to utilize an annual reverification date, provided by each Member Board. Please note that physician certification status will only change once a year, unless a certificate is revoked for disciplinary reasons. Therefore, by utilizing the annual reverification date suggested, you will have accurate information about a physician's current certification status.



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How is the C-MOC reverification date used?

For credentialers who may need an end date to complete Primary Source Verification, the individual Member Boards will provide an annual reverification date to ensure accurate certification status.

Who benefits from the adoption of no end dates?

Both physicians and patients benefit. MOC helps ensure better patient care through a physician's participation in the rigorous ABMS MOC process that continually assesses and helps enhance professional medical knowledge, judgment, professionalism, clinical techniques and communication skills. The public will know that a physician who "Meets MOC Requirements" represents the highest level of commitment to patient care and can use that information to help make a personal physician selection.

Who can we contact for questions?

Questions can be referred to Michael Coyne, ABMS Director, Product Management and Business Development, at (312) 436-2674 or mcoyne@abms.org or ABMS Solutions at (800) 733-2267.



Sample Physician Display: MOC/C-MOC

Matthew Richards (ABMSUID - 12345)			Viewed: 4/3/2013 11:25:21 AM CST	
DOB:	private			
Status:	private			
Certification				
American Board of Anesthesiology				
Anesthesiology - General			Status: Certified	
Active	Lifetime	Initial Certification	09/21/1984 -	
American Board of Pediatrics				
Pediatrics - General			Status: Certified	
Active	Lifetime	Initial Certification	10/17/1982 -	Reverification Date
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine - Subspecialty			Status: Certified	
Active	MOC	Recertification	01/01/2010 -	Reverification Date 02/15/2014
Expired	Time-Limited	Recertification	01/01/2003 - 12/31/2009	
Expired	Time-Limited	Recertification	01/01/1996 - 12/31/2002	
Expired	Time-Limited	Initial Certification	07/10/1987 - 12/31/1994	
<p>The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) has implemented certification standards which specify that board certification is contingent upon meeting the ongoing requirements of Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Accordingly, as of January 1, 2010, the ABP no longer issues certificates with specific end dates to certification. Annual primary source verification on or immediately after the reverification date shown above is necessary to accurately determine a diplomate's current certification status. More information is available at https://www.abp.org/MOCVerification/Credentialers.pdf</p>				
 Meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Requirements				
American Board of Anesthesiology (Learn more about Meeting Board's MOC Requirements)				
Anesthesiology	Not Required 			
<p>For some ABMS Member Boards, physicians who achieved Board Certification before those Boards established their MOC programs are not required to participate in MOC. To obtain information regarding whether a specific physician is required to participate in MOC please contact the pertinent ABMS Member Board http://www.CertificationMatters.org/abms-member-boards.aspx.</p>				



ABMS Board Eligibility Overview

ABMS Member Boards' Board Eligibility Policies

American Board of	Board Eligible Period (+ practice requirement)	Transition Date	American Board of	Board Eligible Period (+ practice requirement)	Transition Date
Allergy and Immunology	5 years	1/1/2017	Orthopaedic Surgery	5 years	7/1/1996
Anesthesiology	7 years	1/1/2019	Otolaryngology	5 years	1/1/2019
Colon and Rectal Surgery	7 years	12/31/2023	Pathology	5 years	1/1/2019
Dermatology	5 years	12/31/2016	Pediatrics	7 years	12/31/2013
Emergency Medicine	5 years	12/31/2019	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	7 years	1/1/2019
Family Medicine	7 years	1/1/2019	Plastic Surgery	7 (+1) years	1/1/2019
Internal Medicine	7 years	1/1/2019	Preventive Medicine	7 years	1/1/2019
Medical Genetics	7 years	1/1/2019	Psychiatry and Neurology	7 years	1/1/2019
Neurological Surgery	5 years	12/31/2018	Radiology	6 years	1/1/2017
Nuclear Medicine	7 years	2006	Surgery	7 years	7/1/2022
Obstetrics and Gynecology	7 (+1) years	1/1/2017	Thoracic Surgery	7 years	1/1/2014
Ophthalmology	7 years	1/1/2019	Urology	5 (+1 year, 4 months) years	Summer 1999

The ABMS policy became effective on Jan. 1, 2012. Candidates are affected by the policy date in one of two ways. The transition date applies only to those candidates who have completed the training required for initial certification, but have not achieved Board Certification by Jan. 1, 2012.

They have until their Board's Transition Date to complete the certification process. All other candidates who have not completed their required training by Jan. 1, 2012, have a Board Eligible Period as indicated by their Board to complete the certification process.

More information on a specific Board's policy can be found on the ABMS website.

What is the new policy?

Effective January 1, 2012, a new ABMS policy limits the period of time that may elapse between the completion of residency training and achievement of Board Certification. Under the policy, each of the 24 Member Boards must establish a time limit for its Board Eligibility period. After that time, a physician who has not achieved Board Certification will be ineligible until he/she completes the requirements of that Member Board for re-entry into the certification process.

Each Member Board must also establish a transition plan for candidates who had completed their residencies but not yet achieved Board Certification when the policy went into effect. Each Board must choose a date between January 1, 2015, and January 1, 2019, as the outer limit for these candidates to achieve certification.

Where can I view the ABMS Member Boards' Board Eligibility periods and transition dates?

Above is a chart that depicts the time limits established by each Member Board.



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Why was the policy established?

The new policy, adopted by the ABMS Board of Directors in September 2011, recognizes physicians' legitimate need for a way to signal their preparations for Board Certification through the term "Board Eligible." At the same time, it closes off the potential for abuse through use of the term indefinitely.

This policy tightens the connection between training and certification. Research has shown repeatedly that physicians lose knowledge and skills as the years pass after their training. The requirements of the ABMS Maintenance of Certification® program address this problem through continuous professional development. The new Board Eligibility Policy limits the time that can elapse before physicians are certified and therefore participating in MOC.

Why is ABMS creating this range rather than one all-purpose limit?

The Member Boards have different requirements for certification and different schedules for certifying exams. The flexibility in the time frame recognizes this simple fact.

Will there be any exceptions to the new limits?

The ABMS Member Boards may grant exceptions in instances of military deployment, acute illness or other special circumstances.