Maintenance of Certification Primer

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Course Objectives

- Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to:
  - list the components of Maintenance of Certification (MOC).
  - explain the reporting requirements for each two-year period in the 10-year MOC cycle.
  - describe the types of activities that will meet the requirements for Part IV – Performance in Practice.
  - plan MOC activities required to meet each reporting period.
A Brief History of MOC

- MOC was developed by the boards that are members of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to replace the recertification process used by many boards. This change reflects the belief that maintaining certification should be a continuous process and should not rely only on a periodic examination.
- All MOC programs use guidelines provided by ABMS.
What do I need to know about the American Board of Pathology MOC Program?

- All ABP certificates issues in 2006 or later are time-limited.
- ABP certificates are valid through December 31 ten years after the date of issue. However, they may expire earlier if interim MOC requirements are not met.
- Diplomates must report at 2-year intervals beginning 1/31 of the 3rd year after certification. Example: A 2011 diplomate must provide the first report by 1/31/2014.
What do I need to know about the American Board of Pathology MOC Program?

• **Fees**
  - First report - $50 per diplomate (not certificate)
  - Subsequent reports - $100 per diplomate

• **Reporting**
  - Reporting for primary and subspecialty certificates may be combined, based on the primary certificate timeline.
  - The same Part II and IV activities can be used for both certificates.
What do I need to know about the American Board of Pathology MOC Program?

- Examinations
  - Diplomates must take an examination in each specialty in which they maintain certification.
  - If reporting of certificates is combined, all examinations must be completed by the end of the 10-year primary certification cycle but the examinations do not have to be taken in the same year.
What do I need to know about the American Board of Pathology MOC Program?

- Diplomates may maintain any or all of their certificates.
- A relinquished certificate may be regained within 5 years by notifying the ABP and reinstituting participation in MOC activities in that area.
- After 5 years, the diplomate will have to retake the initial certification examination in order to regain certification in the relinquished specialty.
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part I: Professional Standing**
  - Full and unrestricted medical licensure in the US or Canada
    - The ABP will accept documentation of a full and unrestricted license in the local jurisdiction for diplomates who practice in other countries.
  - Documentation of medical staff membership and health care privileges.
    - Diplomates may substitute a description of their practice if they are not members of a medical staff.
  - Part I reports are due at the end of the 4th and 8th years of the MOC cycle.
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part II: Life-Long Learning and Self-Assessment**
  - The diplomate must have documentation of 70 Category 1 CME credits over each 2-year period. Twenty (20) of these credits must come from Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs).
  - To date, the ABP has approved 25 providers of SAMs, including specialty organizations, institutions, and departments. All SAMs are Category 1 CME activities and can be used for licensure requirements, etc.
  - Eighty (80%) of CME must be related to the diplomate’s area of practice.
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part II: Life-Long Learning and Self-Assessment**
  - Part II activities must be reported throughout the 10-year reporting cycle.
  - The first report is due 1/31 in the third year following initial certification and every 2 years thereafter.
  - Diplomates should not submit documentation of CME/SAM activities unless requested by the ABP as part of an audit.
  - The ABP software developer hopes to be able to receive direct reports from some CME providers by 2012.
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part III: Cognitive Evaluation**
  - Examinations will be proctored, secure, and computerized.
  - AP/CP examinations will be modular. Each diplomate will choose 6 modules of 25 questions each. Choice of modules must be made at the time of application/registration and may not be changed.
  - Some subspecialty examinations will be modular (Hematology, Neuropathology, Molecular Genetic Pathology, Pediatric Pathology). The remainder will not.
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part III: Cognitive Evaluation**
  - Each module will be approximately 80% practical and 20% written. All slides will be virtual.
  - Modules will be graded together as one examination.
  - Location – TBD
  - Diplomates will be able to complete the AP/CP examination and one subspecialty examination in one day.
AP/CP MOC Exam

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

4 add. = 6 total

3 add. = 6 total

3 add. = 6 total

General module

Specialty module

AP

CP
AP only MOC Exam

6 total

CP only MOC Exam

6 total

3 max
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<tr>
<th>Modules - Anatomic Pathology</th>
<th>Revised 11/08</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gen AP I, II</td>
<td>Bone-Soft Tissue</td>
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<td>Gen Surg Path I, II</td>
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<td>Cytology-Gyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cytology, Non Gyn</td>
<td>GI-Biliary</td>
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Modules – Anatomic Pathology

- Genitourinary
- Gynecologic
- Head and Neck
- Medical Renal
- Neuropathology

- Pediatric Path
- Pulmonary - Mediastinal
- Forensic Pathology
Modules – Clinical Pathology

- Gen CP I, II, III, IV
- BB/TM I, II
- BB/TM, Coag
- Coagulation
- Hematology I, II
- Immunopathology
- Microbiology I, II
- Chemistry I, II
Common Modules – Anatomic and Clinical Pathology

- Gen. Hemepath I
  - Lymph node-spleen

- Gen. Hemepath II
  - Bone Marrow

- Flow Cytometry

- Molecular Pathology
- Molecular Pathology and Cytogenetics
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part IV – Evaluation of Performance in Practice**
  - CLIA requirements related to quality assurance, performance improvement, etc are the basis for most Part IV ABP MOC requirements.
  - Evaluations (modified peer survey)
    - ABP certified pathologist
    - Chair of Credentials Committee
    - Board-certified physician in another specialty
    - Technologist or Pathologist’s Assistant who works with diplomate
What are the components of MOC?

- Part IV – Evaluation of Performance in Practice
  - Laboratory Accreditation
    - CMS
    - The Joint Commission
    - College of American Pathologists
    - AABB
    - ASHI
    - NAME
    - State of ________________
  - Other
What are the components of MOC?

- Part IV: Evaluation of Performance in Practice
  - Inter-laboratory performance improvement/quality assurance
    - Proficiency testing
  - Other acceptable activities include those
    - which compare laboratory results to those of other laboratories
    - in which a laboratory participates as part of a multi-laboratory project
What are the components of MOC?

- **Part IV: Evaluation of Performance in Practice**
  - Individual participation in performance improvement
  - Cytopathology proficiency examination
  - Inspector in laboratory accreditation process
- Society-sponsored activities
  - Slide review program
  - Other educational activity
- Institutional/departmental activity
  - Part IV approval form on ABP web site
- Part IV activities must be reported every 2 years.

Part IV activities must be reported every 2 years.
Participation in MOC

- Diplomates with a time-limited certificate who wish to remain certified in that area must participate in MOC.
  - Failure to participate will result in expiration of the certificate before the end of the 10-year cycle
  - Diplomates will be notified by certified mail that their certificate will expire at a specific time unless reporting is brought up to date.
Participation in MOC

- Diplomates with a time-limited certificate who wish to remain certified in that area **must** participate in MOC.
  - Diplomates with an expired certificate may regain certification by bringing all reporting requirements up to date within 5 years of the date of expiration.
  - After 5 years, the initial certification examination must be retaken in order for diplomates to be certified.
Participation in MOC

- Diplomates with lifetime certificates are encouraged to participate in MOC but are not required to do so by the ABP. Participation in MOC will not jeopardize the diplomate’s original certificate.
  
  + Diplomates may sign up for MOC through Pathway on the ABP website (http://www.abpath.org).
  
  + There is a $100 fee for lifetime diplomate to join MOC with $100 at the time of each report.
  
  + Lifetime diplomates may opt out of MOC at any time. However, if they wish to rejoin, all MOC reporting requirements from the original participation date must be met.
Participation in MOC

- Although the ABP will not require lifetime diplomates to participate in MOC, other groups may encourage or require participation.
  - 3rd party payers
  - Credentials committees
  - CMS through PQRI
  - Federation of State Medical Boards through Maintenance of Licensure
Participation in MOC

- The ABP Voluntary Recertification program will not be available after the 2013 application period ends (July, 2013). After that time, diplomates who are required to take a secure, proctored examination in order to obtain a state license will have to participate in MOC. These diplomates will be allowed to take the cognitive examination and then begin a 10-year MOC cycle.
Who should participate in MOC?

- Diplomates who are not practicing pathology must meet the ABMS definition of “clinically inactive” in order to modify their MOC participation.
  - Clinically inactive is defined by ABMS as not practicing pathology for 2 years.
  - The diplomate must notify the ABP that he/she is inactive at the time they report.
  - Being clinically inactive exempts the diplomate from Part IV only. Parts I-III must still be completed.
  - The diplomate must notify ABP when he/she re-enters practice and must begin Part IV activities within 6 months.
Summary

- ABP diplomates must participate in MOC for all certificates obtained in 2006 or later.
- Part II and some Part IV activities must be reported every 2 years.
- Part I and remainder of Part IV (references) must be reported after the 4th and 8th years.
- AP/CP examinations and some subspecialty examinations will be modular and can be tailored to practice.
- Most MOC requirements can be met by state licensure and CLIA requirements.
References

- [http://www.abpath.org](http://www.abpath.org)
  - Click on MOC box
    - Instructions and forms for online reporting
    - FAQs
  - Booklet of Information
  - Timelines
  - Forms, including application for Part IV approval and SAMs provider information and agreement.