

From the ABNM: Making MOC Simpler

George Segall, MD, Executive Director, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) has been working to make Maintenance of Certification (MOC) more valuable for diplomates (*J Nucl Med.* 2017;58[3]:9N). The board recognizes that busy diplomates also need a program that is simple, easy to understand, and efficient.

The ABNM MOC website has been redesigned so that it is easier to navigate, requires less data input, and requires diplomates to update their information only once each year. Diplomates can visit www.abnm.org and log in with e-mail and password or create an account. After logging in, diplomates may change their passwords or e-mail addresses, update contact information, and pay the annual MOC fee by credit card. Diplomates can then step through the links for MOC Parts 1–4.

Part 1 (Professionalism and Professional Standing) asks a few questions about medical license, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Authorized User status, and employment profile. If the information is correct or after changes are entered, diplomates can click on the save button to confirm that their information is current.

Part 2 (Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment) shows the Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Self-Assessment Module (SAM) credits diplomates earn from professional organizations participating in the CME Gateway sponsored by the Radiological Society of North America. To have CME and SAM credits automatically downloaded to their profiles, diplomates first must register at the CME Gateway (www.cmegateway.org) and establish links to the professional organizations from which they earn educational credit. This information is used to track progress in meeting ABNM requirements, which include an average of 25 CME hours per year (including 17.5 hours of nuclear medicine–specific credit and 8 hours of SAM credit). Credit that diplomates earn from CME providers not registered with the CME Gateway (for example, a university or hospital) may be entered manually in order to have all credits recorded in one place. Starting this year, the ABNM offers diplomates the option of clicking a button attesting that they have met the annual requirements. This option makes it easy for diplomates who have not registered with CME Gateway or who earn credits with nonregistered CME providers. In place of manually entering data, diplomates agree to provide documentation of CME activities in the event of an audit.

In Part 3 (Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills), diplomates can register for the MOC exam. Diplomates with time-limited certificates expiring in 2018 or later

may enroll in CertLink as an alternative to taking the MOC exam. CertLink is a longitudinal learning and self-assessment pilot program that will deliver 36 new multiple-choice questions each year at a frequency specified by each diplomate. Diplomates will receive immediate feedback on their answers, including a key point and brief explanation. It is hoped that diplomates will find CertLink easy to use and valuable.

Part 4 (Improvement in Medical Practice) has new options allowing diplomates to document participation in quality improvement activities that they already do, such as being a member of a quality or safety committee, participating in clinical conferences or tumor boards, passing a state or federal radiation safety inspection, or maintaining laboratory accreditation. The ABNM has designated 16 types of activities that fulfill the requirement, which have been described in the ABNM newsletter *Tracers* (available at: https://abnm_wordpress_uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016-1_MOC_Committee.pdf). Diplomates will click on a button attesting that they have participated in one activity during the year and provide documentation if they are audited.

The ABNM is piloting a brief practice survey as an alternative for diplomates who do not routinely participate in quality improvement activities. The first survey covers ventilation/perfusion lung imaging for pulmonary embolism diagnosis and is based on the SNMMI procedure standard for lung scintigraphy. The survey has 6 questions regarding procedure, interpretation criteria, and communications. Diplomates completing the online survey will receive a summary of the answers provided by other participants so that they can consider making changes if their practice does not conform to guidelines and/or the practice of a majority of other diplomates.

In summary, diplomates can attest that they are meeting MOC requirements by updating their profiles on the ABNM website once each year. The ABNM hopes diplomates will find that participating in MOC is simple as well as valuable. Please send any questions, comments, and suggestions to abnm@abnm.org.



George Segall, MD