The ABS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program documents a surgeon's ongoing commitment to professionalism, lifelong learning and practice improvement following initial certification.

**ABS MOC Program Requirements**

**Part 1 - Professional Standing**
- **Medical license**: Possession of a valid, full and unrestricted medical license (U.S. or Canada)
- **Hospital/surgical center privileges**: If clinically active
- **Professional references**: Contact information for the chair of surgery and chair of credentials at your primary institution

**Part 2 - Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment**
- **CME**: Completion of 150 credits of Category 1 CME relevant to your practice over a 5-year cycle
- **Self-assessment**: At least 50 of the 150 CME credits must include self-assessment — a written or electronic question-and-answer exercise that assesses your understanding of the material. A score of 75% or higher must be required on the self-assessment activity for it to count toward this requirement.

*Waiving of CME*: The ABS will waive 60 credits of CME with self-assessment for achieving certification or recertification. This includes the one that enrolls you in the ABS MOC Program — it counts toward your first cycle.

**Part 3 - Cognitive Expertise**
- **Secure examination**: May be taken starting 3 years before your certificate's expiration. All MOC requirements must be fulfilled up to this point to apply. *Note: The ABS will offer an alternative assessment for general surgery as of 2018*.

If you hold multiple ABS certificates, this is the only requirement that must be repeated for each specialty.

**Part 4 - Evaluation of Performance in Practice**
- **Practice assessment**: Ongoing participation in a local, regional or national outcomes registry or quality assessment program. No data is collected. See www.absurgery.org for more details, including examples of acceptable programs.

**Key points to know:**
- Surgeons are automatically enrolled in MOC once they certify or recertify in any ABS specialty after July 2005.
- MOC requirements now run in 5-year cycles (Jan. 1–Dec. 31).
- After each cycle, surgeons are required to submit information online about Parts 1, 2 and 4.
- No paper documentation is required at that time. However, you may be asked to provide verification of the information you submitted.
- We will contact you by mail and email when action is required.

**Visit www.absurgery.org to:**
- View your MOC status and personal MOC timeline.
- Enter and track CME using your CME Repository.
- Keep your contact information up to date.
- Print verification of your certification and MOC status.
- Learn more about the ABS MOC Program.