

Maintenance of Certification Program



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 to apply. **Note:** *The ABS will offer a new two-year assessment for general surgery as of 2018, with other specialties to be phased in*

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:

- » Check your MOC status
- » 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