American Board of Surgery

Maintenance of Certification Program
Why ABS MOC?

- Establishes a national program for maintaining knowledge and skill in practice
- Documents the ongoing commitment of surgeons to professionalism, lifelong learning, and quality patient care
- Upholds board certification as a standard of quality defined by the surgical community
- Gives the surgical community a proactive position in the health care quality debate, using surgeon-developed metrics and reporting methods
Four Parts of MOC
To assess physician competencies on a continual basis

1. Professional Standing
2. Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
3. Cognitive Expertise
4. Evaluation of Performance in Practice
ABS MOC Requirements

- Diplomates become enrolled in MOC once they certify or recertify in any ABS specialty after July 2005

- MOC requirements run in 3-year cycles (Jan. 1-Dec. 31), with a secure exam required every 10 years

- The ABS intends for its MOC program to be as flexible as possible so diplomates can participate in the ways most compatible with their practice
Four Parts of MOC

Part 1 – Professional Standing

- Full and unrestricted **medical license**
  - U.S. or Canada

- Hospital or surgical center **privileges**
  - If clinically active

- **Professional references**: contact information for chief of surgery and chair of credentials committee
  - At institution where most work is performed
Four Parts of MOC

Part 2 — Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

- Continuing Medical Education (CME)
  - **90 credits** of Category 1 CME over 3 years
  - All CME must be relevant to a diplomate’s practice – no other restrictions on subject matter
  - CME completed to meet state licensing requirements is acceptable
Part 2 – Self-Assessment

- At least 60 credits of the 90 Category 1 CME credits must include self-assessment, defined as:

  A written or electronic question-and-answer exercise that assesses your understanding of the material presented

- A passing score of 75% or higher must be required

- No minimum number of questions is required and repeated attempts are allowed
Part 2 – Waiving of CME

- The ABS will waive 60 CME credits with self-assessment for achieving ABS certification or recertification.
- This includes the certification or recertification that enrolls you in MOC – it counts toward your first cycle.
- The ABS will also waive 60 credits for diplomates who obtain certification or recertification from another ABMS board.
- Diplomates can apply to the AMA to receive AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for certification or recertification.
Part 2 Resources

● Some resources for CME and self-assessment:
  ○ AAST e-Learning CME
  ○ SAGES University
  ○ Selected Readings in General Surgery
  ○ SESAP®, VESAP®, PSSAP, BESAP, SOSAP, Trans-SAP

● See www.absurgery.org for additional programs
Four Parts of MOC

Part 3 – Cognitive Expertise

- Secure MOC (recertification) examination
  - May be taken starting 3 years prior to certificate expiration
  - Full application, including 12-month operative log and reference forms, is required
  - All other MOC requirements must be satisfied to be admissible to the exam
  - Content outline available at [www.absurgery.org](http://www.absurgery.org)
Four Parts of MOC

Part 4 – Evaluation of Performance in Practice

- Ongoing participation in a local, regional or national outcomes registry or quality assessment program
  - ABS asks only for information about participation – no patient data is collected
  - The activity should be relevant to a diplomate’s practice
  - Diplomates are encouraged to find out what programs are available through their hospital
Part 4 Resources

- Participation in programs such as these will satisfy Part 4:

| ACS Surgeon-Specific Registry | • NSQIP / VASQIP |
| Bariatric - MBSAQIP | • Organ transplant registries |
| Burn registries (ABA) | • Pediatric surgery registries |
| Cancer registries (e.g., RQRS) | • Statewide collaboratives (e.g., SCOAP) |
| Mastery of Breast Surgery (ASBS) | • Trauma registries (e.g., TQIP) |
| Multi-specialty Portfolio Program (ABMS) | • Vascular registries |

- Examples of additional programs are listed at [www.absurgery.org](http://www.absurgery.org)
Three-Year Reporting Requirement

- At end of each 3-year cycle, diplomates must submit information online regarding Parts 1, 2 and 4. No documentation is required
- Submission is due by March 1 (2 months after end of cycle)
- Diplomates can also directly transfer CME data from ACS or SAGES
- The ABS audits a percentage of the forms submitted each year to verify information
- Check your MOC status at any time by going to moc.absurgery.org
View your personal MOC Timeline at [www.absurgery.org](http://www.absurgery.org)

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<thead>
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<th>MOC Part</th>
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Questions regarding MOC may be sent to [moc@absurgery.org](mailto:moc@absurgery.org)
CME Repository

- A free feature on www.absurgery.org that allows diplomates to record and track their CME activities
- Already populated with any CME submitted since 2005, as well as any waived CME
Diplomates with Multiple Certificates

- Diplomates submit information every 3 years according to their initial enrollment in the ABS MOC Program
- Only the exam (Part 3) must be repeated for each certificate
- All other MOC activities should be relevant to your practice
- MOC activities completed for other ABMS boards or RCPSC that meet ABS requirements can be used toward ABS MOC
Diplomates in a Fellowship

- Enrollment in a fellowship fulfills Parts 2 and 4 while in a program
- Fellowship or training program must be approved by the ACGME or a recognized surgical organization
- Diplomates must still submit information every 3 years, entering information about their training
- Part 2 requirements will be prorated for remaining years of the 3-year cycle
Re-entry to MOC

- Diplomates who do not participate in MOC will be reported as “Not Meeting MOC Requirements”
- They are ineligible to certify or recertify in any ABS specialty until MOC re-entry requirements are met
- To re-enter, diplomats must catch up on all outstanding MOC requirements and pay a re-entry fee
Benefits of MOC for Diplomates

- Formally documents a diplomate’s commitment to professionalism, lifelong learning and quality improvement
- Uses meaningful measures of care relevant to surgeons
- Allows diplomates to participate in learning and improvement activities most applicable to their practice
- Helps reduce the burden associated with multiple redundant quality assessments
- Responds to the public’s concerns regarding physician competence, health care quality and patient safety
Diplomates will be contacted when action is required for MOC - please keep your contact information up to date.

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- And on Twitter! @AmBdSurg
  www.twitter.com/AmBdSurg