

ABMS MOC Overview and FAQs

Updated April 2018

All 24 ABMS Member Boards are now displaying whether the physicians they certify are participating in MOC. Although not universally required as part of the credentialing process, ABMS MOC is recognized as a key quality marker by insurers, hospitals, quality organizations, and the federal government.

ABMS MOC DISPLAY			
American Board of	Time Limited Certificates End Dates	Time Limited Certificates Duration	Annual MOC Reverification Date
Allergy and Immunology	12/31	10	
Anesthesiology	12/31	10	
Colon and Rectal Surgery	12/31	10	
Dermatology	12/31	10	
Emergency Medicine	12/31	10	
Family Medicine	12/31	Continuous*	2/15
Internal Medicine	12/31	Continuous*	4/1
Medical Genetics and Genomics	12/31	Continuous*	3/1
Neurological Surgery	12/31	10	
Nuclear Medicine	12/31	10	
Obstetrics and Gynecology	12/31	1,6	
Ophthalmology	12/31	10	
Orthopaedic Surgery	12/31	10	
Otolaryngology	12/31	10	
Pathology	12/31	Continuous*	1/31
Pediatrics	12/31	Continuous*	2/15
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	6/30, 11/30, 12/31	10	
Plastic Surgery	12/31	10	
Preventive Medicine	1/31	10	
Psychiatry and Neurology	12/31	Continuous*	3/1
Radiology	12/31	Continuous*	3/15
Surgery	12/31	10	
Thoracic Surgery	12/31	10	
Urology	2/28	10	

* Starting in 2012, these boards have no end dates to their certifications. Pathology transitioned their certifications in January 2016. Medical Genetics and Genomics transitioned their certification in September 2017. To maintain certification from their specialty board, physicians must successfully complete specialty-specific requirements throughout their ongoing MOC cycles.

Specific questions can be referred to David Coursey, Director, ABMS Solutions, at (770) 325-1216 or dcoursey@abmssolutions.com.

1. Why is ABMS displaying this information publicly?

The reason for displaying a physician's MOC status is to provide the public and other stakeholders easy access to important information about individual physicians. Sharing this information supports ABMS' overall mission to provide information concerning issues involving the certification of physicians.

2. What does "participating in MOC" mean?

The phrase means that a physician is engaged in the activities required by his or her certifying board(s) for ongoing learning and assessment. The physician's certifying board(s) determines whether or not he or she is in compliance. When the 24 ABMS Member Boards adopted the standards outlined in the ABMS MOC program, they each launched an MOC program that was tailored to the needs of their medical specialty and subspecialties. A physician participating in MOC shows a commitment to lifelong learning and ongoing self-evaluation, and is engaged in measuring and improving his or her practice.

3. Why does the display of MOC on a physician's profile not include effective dates of certification?

ABMS MOC provides physicians a structured approach to improving the effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of their practices through focused assessment, learning, and improvement activities. It is an extension of a physician's general and subspecialty certification(s).

4. How will MOC participation be displayed on a physician's profile?

The "participating in MOC" display will include the status of all a physician's specialty (and subspecialty, if any) certificates. For each specialty and subspecialty certificate listed, either a "Yes", "No" or "Not Required" response will be given as to whether that physician is participating in the MOC program of his or her certifying Member Board for that certificate. The physician's board(s) determines whether or not he or she is in compliance.

At the bottom of each physician's profile, a disclaimer notes that, for some ABMS Member Boards, physicians who were board certified before those Member Boards established their MOC programs may not be required to participate in the ABMS MOC program created by their Member Board(s). The disclaimer links to www.abms.org, which lists the contact information for the 24 Member Boards.

5. What does it mean if a physician is listed as participating in MOC?

A physician listed as participating in MOC indicates the person is engaged in the assessment and learning activities required by his or her certifying Member Board(s) to improve the effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of their practices.

6. What does it mean if a physician is listed as not participating in MOC?

There are a variety of reasons why a physician may be listed as not participating in MOC. He or she may have chosen not to participate in the MOC program of his or her certifying Member Board(s). Or, he or she may be participating in MOC, but is not meeting the requirements. Contact the physician's certifying board(s) for more information about its MOC program.

7. What does it mean if a physician is listed as not required to participate in MOC?

A physician listed as not required to participate MOC indicates that the physician became board certified in his or her specialty before his or her board established its MOC program. According to the policy of that physician's board, he or she is therefore not required to participate in its MOC program.

8. Why is a physician's profile missing the participating in MOC display?

If this information is missing, the physician's certifying Member Board(s) has not made his or her MOC status available to ABMS. Examples of why the information has not been provided to ABMS could include technical issues, delays in confirming the MOC status of a board certified physician, or other factors specific to the physician. ABMS will display publicly whether that physician is participating in MOC as soon as it receives the information from his or her certifying board(s).

9. What is an MOC reverification date?

ABMS Member Boards that have eliminated end dates recognize that some entities may still need a certification end date to complete Primary Source Verification. To assist in this process, we encourage credentialers to utilize an annual reverification date, provided by each Member Board. Please note that physician certification status will only change once a year, unless a certificate is revoked for disciplinary reasons. Therefore, by utilizing the annual reverification date suggested, one will have accurate information about a physician's current certification status.

10. How is the MOC reverification date used?

For credentialers who may need an end date to complete Primary Source Verification, the individual Member Boards provide an annual reverification date to ensure accurate certification status.

11. Who benefits from the adoption of no end dates?

Both physicians and patients benefit. MOC helps ensure better patient care through a physician's participation in a process which continually assesses and helps enhance professional medical knowledge, judgment, professionalism, clinical techniques, and communication skills. The public will know that a physician who is "participating in MOC" represents the highest level of commitment to patient care and can use that information to help make a personal physician selection.

12. How quickly are ABMS Solutions' records updated?

The ABMS certification database is the central repository for information on the specialty physicians who are certified by an ABMS Member Board. It is updated each day with information that is received from the Member Boards and verified by the ABMS database team. The Member Boards provide information to ABMS after a certification exam is given. Physicians also may request an update to be made. In the case of newly certified physicians, the certifying Member Board submits information within two weeks of the public display of information and/or formal notification to the physician. The information received is thoroughly checked for quality and accuracy. Once this process is complete, the data is made accessible through ABMS Solutions products and ABMS Solutions licensees. Data resulting from a physician search is displayed in the ABMS Board Certification Credentials Profile. A similar process occurs for physician MOC participation status information. However, given the varying cycles for when MOC requirements must be completed, Member Boards may submit information to ABMS throughout the year or on an annual basis.

Sample Physician Display

ABMS® Board Certification Credentials Profile
A service provided by the American Board of Medical Specialties

[New Search](#) | [Search Results](#) | [Email For Feedback](#) | [Save Physician](#) | [Print Profile](#)

To become Board Certified, a physician must achieve expertise in a medical specialty or subspecialty that meets the profession-driven standards and requirements of one (or more) of the 24 ABMS certifying boards. To maintain Board Certification, the certifying boards may require physicians, depending on their date of initial certification, to participate in on-going programs of continuing learning and assessment (Maintenance of Certification) designed to help them remain current in an increasingly complex practice environment.

John A. Doe (ABMSUID - XXXXXX) Viewed: 2/11/2018 10:53:55 AM CST

DOB:
02/08/1967

Education:
1993 MD (Doctor of Medicine)

Address:
536 Main Street Ste 456
Anytown, US 12345-4321 (United States)

Individual NPI ¹ :
XXXXXXXXXX

Show Active Medical License(s) ² :
GA XXXXXX

Certification:



American Board
of Internal Medicine

American Board of Internal Medicine

Internal Medicine - General **Status: Certified**

Status	Duration	Occurrence	Start Date - End Date
Active	Time-Limited	Recertification	05/07/2007 - 12/31/2018
Expired	Time-Limited	Initial Certification	08/23/1995 - 12/31/2005

✦ **Participating in Maintenance of Certification (MOC) - No**

Learn more about Internal Medicine MOC program

¹ **NPI: Not for Primary Source Verification (PSV).**
² **State of Licensure provided by Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB): Not for Primary Source Verification (PSV).**



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Notice: It is up to the user to determine if the physician record obtained from this service is that of the physician being sought.

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