

Maintenance of Certification: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I need to participate in MOC?

If you have a time-limited certificate you must enroll and participate in MOC to maintain your certification. ABIM began issuing 10-year time-limited certificates in 1990, with the first time-limited medical oncology certificates in 1991. However, ABIM and ASCO encourage all diplomates, including those with lifetime certificates, to participate in MOC.

How do I enroll?

You enroll through the ABIM website's "Physician Login" page. You will need to enter either your ABIM candidate number or your Social Security Number, and your password. If you have not yet created a password, your default password is your date of birth.

Can you explain the ABIM MOC process?

ABIM is your source of information on policies and procedures for maintaining your medical oncology certification; any information here is provided as a convenience. Visit www.abim.org/moc for details.

Following are the three components of Maintenance of Certification:

- 1) Be **licensed** and in good standing and fulfill any applicable procedural requirements
- 2) Earn 100 points of **self-evaluation** in two categories: medical knowledge and practice performance
- 3) Pass the **secure examination**

How does the Self-Evaluation Process work?

Diplomates will earn 100 points of self-evaluation credit before their certificates expire. The point requirements are:

- At least 20 points in Self-Evaluation of Medical Knowledge
- At least 20 points in Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance
- 60 additional points in either medical knowledge or practice performance

How do I get credit toward Self-Evaluation of Medical Knowledge?

In addition to the ASCO Cancer Prevention MOC Module, ABIM offers a series of medical oncology knowledge modules (as well as internal medicine and all other subspecialties); these are essentially open-book tests, which allow you to assess your medical knowledge.

- Modules have varying point values, from 10 to 60
- Update modules, introduced annually, are worth 10 points and are each available for three years.
- Points earned are good for 10 years from the time of module completion

Since 2005 ASCO has offered a *Maintenance of Certification and Lifelong Learning Workshop* at the Annual Meeting. This session reviews the questions of an ABIM medical knowledge module in an interactive group setting and utilizes audience response technology and expert faculty. If you are enrolled in MOC, you can submit your answers to ABIM for MOC points.

What about the 20 points in Practice Performance?

ASCO's Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI) is approved for use in meeting the Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance requirement. Completing two QOPI cycles provides the necessary data to complete the ABIM's Self-Directed Practice Improvement Module (PIM). This module can be repeated as soon as additional data are available, and some practices may wish to complete the module annually as a way of continuously monitoring the quality of care provided and engaging in improvement cycles.

Do I need to maintain both my internal medicine and medical oncology certifications?

This is a personal decision only you can make based on your practice setting and needs, but it is not required that you maintain your internal medicine certification in order to maintain your medical oncology certification.

What if I want to maintain more than one certificate?

You can apply the 100 points of self-evaluation you earn to the renewal of more than one certificate, as long as the points are valid when each certificate expires. (Points you earn are good for ten years.)

What about the Secure Examination?

You will, of course, have to pass a separate secure examination for each certificate you are maintaining. You can use the recently released *ASCO-SEP: Medical Oncology Self-Evaluation Program* to prepare for the medical oncology MOC examination. For more information or to purchase ASCO-SEP, please visit www.asco.org/ascosep. You may register for the secure examination during the registration periods beginning in the sixth year of your 10-year certificate; you do not have to earn 100 self-evaluation points before taking the examination.