



Introducing CAP

A new way to maintain board certification



What is CAP?

CAP is a new Continuous Assessment Program that will replace ABO's 10-year recertification exam and MOC program beginning in 2019. Diplomates can now maintain their board certification without the stress and expense of a high stakes exam every 10 years, yet still be confident that they are keeping up with advancements in the profession while maintaining their commitment to continuous learning and excellent patient care.

Why has ABO decided to make this change?

ABO is committed to enhancing the value of board certification and maintenance of certification. The new CAP program and modifications to the MOC program were developed via guidance from evolving ABMS MOC structures and feedback from our Diplomates. Our goal is to make board certification a more meaningful, convenient, flexible and less costly program.

Contemporary adult learning theory promotes the use of *assessment for knowledge* rather than *assessment of knowledge*. CAP offers shorter, more frequent assessments with spaced repetition and feedback to improve learning and retention.

How will CAP work?

CAP will incorporate a series of smaller, 25-question mini-assessments taken 3 times per year for a total of 9 assessments over a 3-year cycle. Diplomates conveniently access the assessments on a home or office computer, tablet or mobile device at any time during the 4 months each assessment is available. Each assessment will cover a specific topic area, with emphasis on advancements within the profession and updates in clinical practice guidelines. Ample time will be allotted to each question to allow outside resources to be consulted, and Diplomates may choose to answer the questions in a single session or over multiple sessions. Feedback will be provided immediately after answering each question, and assessment scores will be given after the final question is answered. Diplomates have the option to skip or drop 2 assessments during each 3-year cycle.

Does CAP replace the current MOC model?

CAP encompasses all requirements that must be met during each 3-year cycle. Every 3 years, Diplomates will be evaluated on the completion of the following requirements:

- 100 Hours of CE
- 2 Self Assessment Modules (SAMs)
- 1 Quality Improvement Initiative (QII)
- Passing 7 of 9 continuous assessments

In recognition of the educational value of preparing for the assessments, CE points are awarded for each CAP assessment that is successfully completed, making it easier and less costly for Diplomates to fulfill the CE requirement.

Will a PPM still be required during each CAP 3-year cycle?

No. Beginning in 2019, the PPM will become optional and will be replaced by a Quality Improvement Initiative (QII). To complete the QII, Diplomates will submit a short written statement attesting to a clinical practice or patient care quality improvement initiated during the 3-year cycle that directly relates to the continuous learning provided by MOC activities.

PPMs will continue to be available as an option for Diplomates to earn CE while fulfilling their QII requirement. PPMs that are based on extracting information from patient charts will be awarded 20 points, and PPMs that do not require patient charts (such as the STEPS Forward PPM) will be awarded 10 points.

What if one or more CAP requirements aren't met by the evaluation date?

If one or more requirement is not met by the end of the 3-year MOC cycle, Diplomates will enter into a remediation year. During this remediation year, Diplomate status will be changed to Not Current and all outstanding requirements will need to be completed. At the conclusion of the remediation year, if all requirements have been met, Diplomates may pay a reinstatement fee and their status will be updated to Current. A new 3-year MOC cycle will then be started.

What if requirements still aren't met by the end of the remediation year?

Any Diplomate with outstanding requirements at the end of a remediation year must re-take the initial certification exam to regain Diplomate status. The exam may be taken 2 times within 2 years of failing to complete the remediation period. If successfully passed, the Diplomate will begin a new MOC cycle. If the exam is not passed within two years, the Diplomate must re-apply and meet post-graduate requirements before being eligible to sit for the exam again.

How will the new CAP and MOC programs benefit me as a Diplomate?

- The new MOC program provides a structured path for continuous learning with focused topics and feedback for self-directed study.
- Shorter, more frequent assessments promote focused learning and facilitate better retention.
- Flexibility to choose when and where to take the assessment, how many questions to answer at one time, and the ability to use open resources for answering questions within the allotted time.
- Option to skip or drop 2 assessments every 3 years.
- Assessments are based on high-quality, clinically relevant content with limited topics per assessment, making preparation easier, efficient and more meaningful.
- Detailed feedback, including answers, explanations and references, is available immediately after answering each question, helping to close any knowledge gaps.
- Reduces cost by eliminating the recertification exam fee and increasing the number of CE hours obtained simply by completing CAP requirements such as mini-assessments, free ABO-sponsored webinars and optional PPMs.

How can I learn more about the new CAP program?

ABO will host a webinar for all Diplomates in the fall of 2018 to review program details and answer any questions. Watch for an email later this summer for details. Diplomates may also call the ABO office at 314.983.4226 for additional information.