MyMOC – Your ABNM MOC Web Pages

By Henry D. Royal, MD, Executive Director

The ABNM has developed secure Web pages for you to use to document your participation in MOC. Creation of a Web-based process is the only way that the ABNM can efficiently administer a comprehensive MOC program.

Logging in

All ABNM diplomates have a dormant account that needs to be activated before it can be used. Once activated, diplomates can log in to their own account. The Web site (https://abnm.snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=4848&RPID=4999) contains more information about how to activate your account.

You will need to update and/or confirm the accuracy of your contact information annually. An e-mail will be sent to you every 12 months and periodically thereafter to remind you to update your contact information. Once you have updated your contact information, the 12-month cycle will begin again.

Making sure that the ABNM has your current e-mail address is the responsibility of each diplomate. Over the next few years, e-mail will become the only form of communication ABNM uses for most of its messages.

Part 1 – Professional Standing

You will need to update or confirm the accuracy of your licensing information annually. When a license has expired, you will be notified by e-mail. You will be required to upload, e-mail or send by mail a copy of your license with its new expiration date.

The ABNM also gets reports of disciplinary actions taken by medical state licensing boards on an ongoing basis. Although the ABNM will contact you, it is your obligation to notify the ABNM if your license is revoked or restricted.

You will need to update or confirm the accuracy of your current work experience annually. You will be asked to provide information about your employment status (active, inactive, retired), your practice experience annually. You will be asked to provide information if your license is revoked or restricted.

You will need to update your CME credits. The ABNM requires that you complete at least 120 credits every 3 years.

Part 2 – Practice Performance Evaluation

Part 4 of MOC is under development and should be available in the near future.

Part 2 – Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

Each year you will need to update your CME credits. The ABNM’s requirements are outlined on its MOC FAQ brochure (http://abnm.snm.org/MOC_FAQ_Brochure.pdf). To minimize the time you spend doing data entry, you can link your MOC entry form to SNM so that any CME you earned through SNM will automatically be entered. You will be asked to confirm that you want this link to occur.

In the future, we plan to link the ABNM CME entry form to the CME Gateway (http://www.cmegateway.org). This site will include CME earned from the following organizations: Radiological Society of North America, American College of Radiology, Society of Nuclear Medicine, American Roentgen Ray Society, Society of Interventional Radiology, American Society of Neuroradiology, Society for Pediatric Radiology and Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs Inc.

We encourage diplomates to upload their CME credits and practice performance evaluation data to the ABNM Web site. These data will become the only form of communication ABNM uses for most of its messages.

Figure 1 shows the annual data entry form. The only data you must enter are the CE credits reported on the CE self-reported line. When you have met the average credits required per year, the overall status for the year will change to a green checkmark.

Part 3 – Cognitive Examination

The application for the cognitive examination is online. You can not apply to take the MOC (recertification) examination unless you are up to date in the MOC process. The examination application has been streamlined since some of the information required (e.g., licensing information) can now be obtained from part 1 of MyMOC.

Part 4 – Practice Performance Evaluation

4 of MOC is under development and should be available in the near future.

Please contact the ABNM office, preferably by e-mail, if you have any questions or suggestions on how to improve My MOC.

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Message from the Chair

The Early Bird Catches the Worm or the Early Worm Gets Eaten?

By J. Anthony Parker, MD, PhD, Chair, ABNM

I am sorry to have to report the death of one of ABNM’s directors, Bruce Line. It is a loss to ABNM, to the nuclear medicine community and especially to his wife and family. The tribute by Tom Miller in the newsletter is representative of the thoughts of many of us who knew, admired and were fond of Bruce.

I have taken over as chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) from the able leadership of Chris Palestro. Under Chris’s leadership, the ABNM is well along the way in responding to the call from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to modernize the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.

The Society of Nuclear Medicine’s Life Long Learning and Self-Assessment Program, under the leadership of Dominique Delbeke, has rapidly developed a rich set of modules that can be used to fulfill the ABNM self-assessment requirement. The ABNM expects to qualify several self-assessment modules (SAMs) from other organizations (e.g., RSNA) in the next few months. Organizations providing qualified SAMs will be listed on the ABNM Web site.

Our association with the Society on Nuclear Medicine has helped not only with providing the resources for MOC but also with moving the ABNM into the electronic era. MOC is a complicated program with many confusing requirements. A new section of the ABNM Web site, MyMOC, will simplify keeping track of all of these requirements and provide a personal record of the credits you have earned (see the article by Henry Royal).

The ABNM has been keeping in close touch with the American Board of Radiology (ABR). We have attempted to keep our MOC programs compatible so that most MOC activity can be credited to both programs. We have worked together with the ABR in qualifying for the USABNM. The ABR is now sharing in this development and will soon be able to link to your CE credits.

I want this link to occur.

For the first time, you may continue during your three-year cycle to take the ABNM’s recertification examination using modules provided by the ABNM. It is not necessary to take this examination to maintain your ABNM certification. You will be notified in your MyMOC account of when the examination is available for you to take. The test is web-based and you will be able to take the test at your own convenience.

The 2006 ABNM certification examination was given last October, and the results are shown in Table 1. In subsequent examinations were given in March and April of this year. The results are shown in Table 2. In subsequent years, the Recertification Examination, which is an integral part of MOC, will be called the MOC Examination. A list of our new diplomates and diplomates who passed the 2006 recertification examination can be found on the ABNM Web site http://www.abnm.org/. Statistics on the in-training Exam given in March and are shown in Table 2.

In the past, the medical specialty boards did not actively keep in touch with their diplomas.
The ABNM is the one of the 24-member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The ABNM has been a leader in the professional effort to define the MOC process. This year marks the rollout of the full ABNM MOC program.

MOC consists of 4 parts:
1. Professional standing
2. Lifelong learning and self-assessment
3. Performance in practice evaluation
4. Professional control

Professional standing is documented by possession of an unrestricted medical license(s).

Cognitive expertise is documented by passing a secure computer-based exam every ten years. The name of the Recertification Examination has been changed to the MOC Examination to reflect its incorporation into the MOC process.

These two MOC requirements are the same as the recertification requirements. Parts 2 and 4 of MOC are new.

The ABNM part 2 requirements are defined in terms of CME credits:
- At least 250 credits/year
- At least 25 credits category 1 credits/year
- At least 17.5/25 nuclear medicine-specific credits/year
- At least 6/25 self-assessment credits/year

The self-assessment CME credits can be obtained from the Society of Nuclear Medicine’s Lifelong Learning and Self Assesessment Program (LLSAP) - http://www.snm.org/llsap/.

Part 4, performance in practice evaluation, is evolving. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is actively working on a program to assist with completing the Part 4 requirement. An essential idea of this part 4 is quality improvement, particularly the cycle of measurement, formulation of a plan for improving weaknesses, implementation and re-measurement. Many diplomates may already be involved in a performance in practice evaluation. For those who are not, 2007 is the year to identify a project and plan its implementation.

At the January meeting of the ABNM, some changes in the MOC program were approved. Initially, the lifelong learning and self-assessment requirements were scheduled to begin in 2006. Since the board felt that these requirements were not adequately communicated, the start date was moved to 2007. Any modules completed in 2006 will be credited to 2007.

Diplomates with time-limited certificates will take the MOC examination on the normal ten-year cycle. The ABNM has no plans to change certification of diplomates with non-time-limited certificates, but the ABNM expects these diplomates to participate in MOC. In 2007, diplomates will be offered the benefits of being classified as participating in MOC. Diplomates will need to take the MOC exam on the following schedule:
- Certified between 1972 and 1976, take the MOC exam by 2015
- Certified between 1977 and 1986, take the MOC exam by 2016
- Certified between 1987 and 1989, take the MOC exam by 2017

The ABNM recommends that diplomates plan to take the exam once or two years early, so that participation as MOC is not interrupted for some reason they are unable to take the exam on time or if they do not pass the exam. Taking the exam early will not affect the time of the following MOC exam.

To encourage diplomates to start their MOC, the ABNM wants to make sure there is no advantage to delaying. At the January meeting it was decided to carry over unused 2006 MOC fees to this year. There will be no late penalty this year. Diplomates who are still-in-training can have their participation in MOC waived if they are still in training by having their program directors send a letter to the ABNM office confirming they are still in training. In general, it seems to me that “the early worm gets eaten.” However, I believe there are some circumstances why the ABNM MOC program may be an example where “the early bird gets the worm.”

Organizations collecting license, credentialing, certification, reimbursement and training are all considering programs similar to MOC. The medical boards hope that a transparent, credible, professionally controlled MOC program will be accepted by those other organizations. Professional control of this program will hopefully mean less bureaucracy and a more efficient program. However, in order for these professional programs to be accepted, they need to be out ahead of the curve, and if anything we may need to do some catching up. We need to show we have an active, viable MOC program in place as soon as possible in order to maintain professional control of this process.

The other reason I personally like to hold back on taking the exam is that if you can skip the first several cycles of a new program without ever having to do them, the ABNM is committed to making sure that diplomates who embrace MOC earlier get an advantage from early participation both in terms of credits received and also, of course, for those who delay, getting up to date with MOC will mean obtaining all prior credits and paying all prior fees.

The ABNM believes that MOC will bring extra value to our diplomates. Participation in MOC is an indication that you are keeping your practice current. Board certification has always been an indication of specialty training and documentation of mastery of a specialized knowledge base, but now participation in MOC indicates active engagement in the whole practice. The goal of the ABNM MOC program is not only to assist our diplomates with credentialing, certification, reimbursement and licensure but also to provide more credible confirmation of expertise to members of the public.

Please be an “early bird” - log in, update your contact information and visit the My-MOC page.

The UT Southwestern Department of Radiology is celebrating its 50th year, and the man who started it all is continuing his work, which has spanned seven decades at the medical center. Dr. Fredrick Bonte, director of the Nuclear Medicine Center, professor of radiology and holder of the Dr. Jack Krohmer Professorship in Radiation Physics, founded the department in 1956 when he arrived at UT Southwestern. With no other radiology professors, Dr. Bonte was a one-man show that first year, but in a short time was able to recruit a group of first-rate colleagues who helped him establish one of the leading programs in the specialty of radiology.

“I was convinced that UT Southwestern was the place for me,” said Dr. Bonte, now 84. “Despite starting from square one, my associates and I were able to develop the programs and the research faculty I wanted.”

Dr. Bonte, who completed his residency at the Army Medical Service and managed a military career with the Army Air Corps in 1946, then began a residency focusing on radiology and worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in a laboratory at Western Reserve. He first set eyes on the UT Southwestern campus in 1956 after getting a call from Dr. A.J. Gill, then dean of the medical school. Since that time, six of the department’s trainees have gone on to become department chairmen, including Dr. Robert Parkey, current chairman of radiology at UT Southwestern.

The UT Southwestern Medical Center launched its nuclear medicine program at West- ern Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve) in 1948, when Dr. Bonte completed his residency at the military service with the Army Air Corps in 1946. He then began a residency focusing on radiology and worked for the Atomic Energy Commission in a laboratory at Western Reserve. He first set eyes on the UT Southwestern campus in 1956 after getting a call from Dr. A.J. Gill, then dean of the medical school. Since that time, six of the department's trainees have gone on to become department chairmen, including Dr. Robert Parkey, current chairman of radiology at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Bonte’s abiding passion was to build the UT Southwestern Nuclear Medicine Center and keep it at the forefront of nuclear medicine. As he made his way through his training and early years in practice, Dr. Bonte remained committed to making sure that diplomates who were not interested in MOC could have their participation in MOC waived while they are still in training.

Dr. Bonte was one of those early pioneers who helped establish MOC as a part of the practice of radiology. His contributions to the field have been extensive, and his legacy will continue to shape the future of nuclear medicine.

The ABNM family extends their condolences to Bruce’s family and many friends. The University of Maryland has established a research center in his honor, and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine has established a scholarship in his name. Bruce’s legacy will continue to inspire and motivate those who follow in his footsteps.

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