Understanding Maintenance of Certification
The American Board of Pediatrics:

- Established in 1933
- Sole mission to the public to assure that physicians have specialized training in pediatrics & meet the standards needed to provide quality care
- Includes 250 physicians who volunteer time to establish & evaluate the set of standards
- Independent certifying board for *Diplomates*
- One of the 24 specialty boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
### Differences Between ACGME & ABP

#### ACGME

- Evaluates & accredits training programs
- Develops educational standards
- Develops the accreditation requirements for training programs in 26 specialties
- Evaluates programs through on-site visits & data collection

#### ABP

- Sets the standards residents or fellows must meet during training to be admitted to the initial certification examination
- Certifies Individuals
- Works closely with ACGME to ensure requirements for accreditation & standards for certification are aligned
Differences Between AAP & ABP

**AAP**
American Academy of Pediatrics

- Members known as fellows, most of whom are also diplomates of the ABP
- Membership society of pediatricians that advocates for children & pediatricians
- Strong presence in Washington, DC, by Department of Government liaison
- Largest national source for pediatric continuing medical education

**ABP**
American Board of Pediatrics

- Certified physicians known as diplomates, most of whom are also fellows of the Academy
- Creates & Implements process of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) to ensure ongoing mastery of 6 core competencies initially measured during training
- Develops & administers in-training, certifying, and MOC examinations in general comprehensive pediatrics & pediatric subspecialties
Evolution of Board Certification

Permanent Certification
Until 1988, certification was earned by successfully passing an examination only once in a career, typically at the conclusion of training.

Time-limited Certification
Beginning in 1989, diplomates were required to successfully pass a similar examination every 7 years.

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
Beginning in 2010, diplomates who choose to maintain certification must do so through continual evaluation of the 6 competencies verified during residency. A secure examination accounts for 1 part of this 4-part program.
Professional Commitment:

The ABP certifies physicians who demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning & provide the highest quality care.

Certification is a self-regulated, professional responsibility.

ACGME-Accredited Residency Training

ABP Initial Certification Examination

ABP Maintenance of Certification
MOC: Its Purpose & Value

For the Public

- Professionalism
- Commitment to lifelong learning
- Specialized knowledge of pediatrics
- Dedication to continuously improving care

For the Pediatrician

- Results in higher-quality care for children
- May help diplomates meet payer, regulatory, & consumer demands for quality
- Represents to the public the commitment to providing quality care
- Acknowledges achievement of the gold standard in pediatric care

Assures public that diplomates certified by the ABP have demonstrated:
MOC: 4-Part Program

MOC Process:

PART 1. Professional Standing
PART 2. Knowledge Assessment
PART 3. Cognitive Expertise
PART 4. Performance in Practice

- Diplomates enter this 4-part program after passing initial certification examination
- MOC evaluates 6 core competencies measured throughout training
- These competencies are assessed in 5-year cycles, as defined by MOC
Measuring 6 Core Competencies

Part 1: Professional Standing
- Patient care
- Interpersonal & communication skills
- Professionalism

Part 2: Knowledge Assessment
- Patient care
- Medical knowledge
- Practice-based learning & improvement
- Systems-based practice

Part 3: Cognitive Expertise
- Medical knowledge

Part 4: Performance in Practice
- Patient care
- Practice-based learning & improvement
- Interpersonal & communication skills
- Professionalism,
- Systems-based practice

The same 6 core competencies measured in training are assessed throughout the 4-part process of MOC.
Part 1: Professionalism

Requirements for Part 1:

All diplomates must hold a valid, unrestricted medical license.
Part 2: Knowledge Self-assessment

Requirements for Part 2:

- Diplomates must accumulate at least 40 points from Part 2 activities per 5-year MOC cycle.
  - ABP assigns point value to all approved Part 2 activities
  - ABP offers free Part 2 activities found within ABP Portfolio
  - External organizations develop & sponsor alternative options, though fees may apply

(View a comprehensive list of “Approved Part 2 activities” at www.abp.org)
Part 3: Cognitive Expertise

Requirement for Part 3:

Successfully pass a secure test of knowledge every 10 years in each area of certification.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Because examinations are only required every 10 years, they do not necessarily coincide with the beginning or end of a 5-year MOC cycle.

EVENY 10 YEARS:

SECURE TEST

Although the MOC cycle is 5 years, a secure test of knowledge is only required every 10 years.
Part 4: Performance in Practice

Requirements for Part 4:

Diplomates must accumulate at least 40 points from Part 4 activities per 5-year MOC cycle.

- ABP assigns point value to all approved Part 2 activities

Activity Options:

Option 1: Complete Web-based Quality Improvement (QI) activities

Option 2: Participate in an ongoing ABP-approved collaborative Quality Improvement project

Option 3: Publish an article meeting SQUIRE guidelines in peer-reviewed journal within diplomat’s MOC cycle
Part 4: Performance in Practice

Examples of Option 1
(Web-based QI Projects):

AAP Web-based Modules

ABP Performance Improvement Module for ADHD
Examples of Option 2
(Collaborative QI Projects):

PICUs in 29 children’s hospitals are collaborating to decrease catheter-related bloodstream infections. This project has been approved by the ABP for Part 4 credit & points.

Reducing Catheter-Associated Bloodstream Infections to Zero

CA-BSI Rate Trend over 9 months

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One-hundred & sixty pediatricians focused efforts on improving care for patients with asthma. The goal was that all 44 participating practices would achieve “perfect care.”

Within two years, the network of pediatricians improved from a 4% compliance rate in applying “perfect care” to an 88% compliance rate.
How Examinations Fit into MOC Timeline

- First 5-year MOC cycle will begin when a diplomate passes the initial general pediatrics examination.

- Because the 6 core competencies continue to be measured during fellowship, if a fellow passes the initial general pediatrics examination, 20 MOC points will be accrued for each year of accredited training.

- A total of 100 points is still required within a 5-year cycle.

- The initial subspecialty certification examination will occur during the MOC cycle & will not begin or end a cycle.

![MOC Timeline Diagram](image-url)
Career Steps to MOC

Steps to Maintain Certification:

- Demonstrate proficiency in all 6 core competencies as verified by Program Director upon completion of training
- Obtain unrestricted medical license
- Apply for & pass initial general pediatrics certification examination
- Automatically enrolled in MOC
- Diplomates then have 5 years to complete the requirements of MOC
- Once all requirements of the 5-year MOC cycle have been met, diplomates will re-enroll in the subsequent 5-year MOC cycle
Once certified, the ABP Portfolio will contain:

- List of completed requirements
  
  *Note: The Portfolio only reflects requirements that are considered completed and not those “in progress.”*

- List of outstanding requirements in current MOC cycle

- Timeframe outlining the next required MOC examination
MOC: At a Glance

Quick Summary:

Part 1: Professional Standing
Valid, unrestricted license

Part 2: Knowledge Self-assessment
Earn at least 40 points from approved activities*

Part 3: Cognitive Expertise
Pass a secure exam every 10 years

Part 4: Performance in Practice
Earn at least 40 points from approved activities*

*Choose activities from either Part 2 or 4 to earn the additional 20 points mandatory to fulfill the 100-point requirement.

Part 2 & Part 4
POINTS TOTAL
100

40 Part 2 Activities
40 Part 4 Activities
+ 20 Additional Activity Points
100 Required points per 5-year MOC cycle
Questions?

Any Questions?:

Visit the ABP Web site
- www.abp.org

Contact the ABP:
- Initial General Pediatrics Certification:
  gpcert@abpeds.org

- Initial Subspecialty Certification:
  sscert@abpeds.org

- Maintenance of Certification:
  moc@abpeds.org

- By phone:
  (919) 929-0461