

## BCD QUICK TIPS

- Be sure to reference the Contact Us page to find the correct department to answer your question. Contacting the correct department initially will help us resolve your issue quickly.
- Find important certification announcements and website updates in the scrolling news box on the BCD home page.
- Find archived issues of The Buzz on the BCD home page under the Buzz tab. It is a great reference for past announcements related to MOC and more!

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## Additional Boards Report MOC Reverification Dates

In August, four additional Member Boards joined Pediatrics (ABP) in reporting continuous MOC type certificates that include a Reverification date. The American Boards of Family Medicine (ABFM), Internal Medicine (ABIM) \*, Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and Radiology (ABR) will begin using Reverification dates instead of an expiration date which is used for time-limited certifications. Profiles for diplomates who were newly certified in 2012 will now reflect an MOC certification with a Reverification date in place of an end date. As certifications expire, that model will also be utilized for recertifications.

\*ABIM is currently reporting this certification type for only a specific group of physicians (*see Focused Practice article in this issue*), but is expected to expand that model in the coming months.

*(If you are not familiar with this certification model, inaugurated by Pediatrics in 2010, please review the article on page 4, reprinted from the March 2011 issue of The Buzz. Also refer to the FAQs, available from the BCD home page.)*

## NEW! Focused Practice

Some Member Boards have implemented pilot programs to recognize areas of expertise that certain physicians have gained while focusing on specific clinical activities. Some certifications will now identify that the physician is recognized as having a Focused Practice in a stated clinical area. Three Member Boards will begin reporting Focused Practice specialization for applicable diplomates in September 2012.

The American Boards of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and Family Medicine (ABFM) offer Physicians the opportunity to focus their practice in a hospital setting, often referred to as “Hospitalists”. Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine (FPHM) is not a subspecialty, but a variation of the general certification. Those certificates will now reflect a MOC designation with a **Reverification date** instead of an expiration date.

Other types of Focused Practice will also be reported. The Radiology (ABR) Member Board offers Focused Practice programs and will report a Reverification date for those records.

Beginning in September, on BCD the Focused Practice profiles will include a blue arrowhead ► next to the applicable certificate as well as an explanatory note. Please see an **example on the next page**.

*(If you are not familiar with this certification model, inaugurated by Pediatrics in 2010, please review the article on page 4 reprinted from the March 2011 issue of The Buzz. Also refer to the FAQs, available from the BCD home page.)*

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EXAMPLE

### AMERICAN BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

#### CERTIFICATION(S):

▶ Internal Medicine 08/22/2000 - 12/31/2010, MOC 10/25/2010 - , Reverification 04/01/2013

▶ Physician is participating in MOC in Internal Medicine with a Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine. More information is available at <http://www.abim.org>.

#### ✧ Meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Requirements American Board of Internal Medicine

Internal Medicine	Status not yet reported
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NOTE that the Meeting (MOC) Requirements section may continue to indicate "Status not yet reported" if the applicable board has not specifically reported this data. **The diplomate's certification status is determined by the top portion of the profile that includes certificate dates.** (See additional MOC articles in this issue.)

## Changes in Reporting of MOC Status

In September 2011 we reported in The Buzz that seven ABMS Member Boards would start reporting MOC status using a new model (Yes or No) to indicate whether or not the diplomate was Meeting the Requirements of MOC for that Member Board.

Effective in September 2012 that information will be reported **for each certificate** (instead of an overall board status) by 20 of the 24 ABMS Member Boards. That information will be displayed on BCD as soon as it is available. Please see an example below.

#### Old format on BCD profile:

#### ✧ Meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Requirements

American Board of Allergy and Immunology	No
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American Board of Internal Medicine	Yes
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#### NEW format on BCD profile:

#### ✧ Meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Requirements

#### American Board of Allergy and Immunology

Allergy & Immunology	Not Required
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#### American Board of Internal Medicine

Internal Medicine	Yes
Rheumatology	Status not yet reported

REMINDER: The Meeting (MOC) Requirements status displayed on the profiles is for informational purposes only. If the certification indicates a valid time-limited date, reverification date or a lifetime certification, but No for MOC status, that **physician is certified**. To find more details about MOC, reference the **reprinted articles of The Buzz (March and September 2011 issues) on page 4.**

NOTE: See additional articles in this issue regarding other types of MOC reporting.

## NEW Activities at NAMSS

There will be lots of **new things happening** in our booth (401-403) at the 36th annual NAMSS Conference, Sept. 5-7 in San Francisco.

1. We have an exciting new Spin & Win game for all our visitors (no buttons this year). Don't miss your opportunity to win **instant prizes** on Thursday and Friday, including a **Kindle Fire and multiple \$50 AmEx gift cards!** (*Not available during the Opening Reception*).
2. We are introducing **mini presentations (5 minutes)** on popular topics including:
  - \* New MOC reporting—yes, it keeps changing!
  - \* Alerts—receive automatic emails when profiles are updated.
  - \* Batch Search—upload a file to search on multiple physicians at one time.
  - \* More! **Look for the complete schedule in your registration bags and in our booth.**

Anyone who attends a **presentation** and/or brings their **pre-show postcard** will receive an **extra** chance to Spin & Win **and** an extra entry in the Second Chance drawing!

3. We will also provide website demonstrations, information about new features, conference specials and prize drawings!
4. San Francisco is a GREAT food city! **Plan ahead** and find wonderful places to dine in the San Francisco Restaurant Guide (sponsored by us) located online (BCD home page and NAMSS website conference page). You will also receive a printed copy once you arrive at the conference.



BCD pre-show postcard

## My Alerts for Email Notifications

BCD subscribers have the option to set up email Alerts for an individual or a list of physicians. You will be notified if there is an update to anyone in your saved list. There is also the option to specify an Alert notification for changes in certification data only or for any change.

Once the Alerts are set up you can view them after logging in by clicking on the My Alerts

button in the menu on the left side of the page. On the My Alerts page, Saved Searches and Specialists Lists are displayed. The most recent changes will be at the top of the list. You can sort the list by last name or last update. If any updates have occurred, an event icon will appear to the left of the affected Saved Search or Specialists List. Examples of an event include additions, updates, deletions, etc. Event icons appear

as follows:   

In late August there will be updates to the Alerts feature to improve the function and to make it easier for you to interpret the data.

If you need to change the email address or day of the week for a notification, click on the update link under the Update Notification column on the My Alerts page. For more information on Alerts visit the FAQs and Help pages on Board Certified Docs.

## MOC -What you need to know (reprint from March 2011)

In 2000, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) established the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in collaboration with its 24 Member Boards. The boards determined that 7 to 10 year intervals for recertification were no longer sufficient to keep abreast of all the rapidly changing advances in the practice of medicine. MOC became the latest evolution of the board certification process and requires ongoing and continuous activities to maintain active certification as a specialist.

Member Boards are in various stages of implementing their MOC requirements. Some boards have been extending expiration dates if a group of MOC activities was completed. Others are still determining how to best report MOC participation.

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) was one of the first boards to

begin reporting MOC participation as a separate type of certificate, with a pilot project that began early in 2010.

Certifications for new, first-time diplomates and for recertification of expired certificates are now issued under the MOC program. MOC certifications from ABP no longer include an expiration date, since that is not in the spirit of continuous learning. Rather, a reverification date has been created to meet accreditation requirements for start and end dates and to provide credentialers with a milestone to confirm that certification is still active. The reverification date is updated once a year to indicate that the specialist is currently participating in MOC. Those certificates appear on the BCD profile as follows:

Pediatrics 10/15/2001-12/31/2009, **MOC 01/01/2010-, Reverification 02/15/2012**

If the specialist does not remain current in MOC, the profile will display a notice changing the status to **NOT CERTIFIED**. This change in reporting from the ABP is being phased in as new certificates are issued or as time-limited certificates expire. MOC participation is completely voluntary for diplomates with lifetime certification and has no impact on the ongoing certification status of lifetime certificates.

Other ABMS Member Boards plan to begin reporting MOC in late 2011. **Watch the news section at the top of the BCD home page for announcements about additional MOC developments.** The FAQs page of BCD provides additional MOC information.

## NEW Changes to MOC Reporting (reprint from September 2011)

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and their 24 Member Boards announced the next step in reporting Maintenance of Certification (MOC). The MOC program, established in 2000, was adopted by all Member Boards, but until now, was only reported by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) which began a pilot program in 2010.

In September, Board Certified Docs will display an indicator that identifies whether or not diplomates are meeting the MOC requirements established by their certifying Member Board (s). Seven Member Boards will participate in the initial rollout of this indicator. ABP will continue to report in the format introduced in 2010, and we will continue to display that data. The remaining Member Boards are expected to start reporting over the next year.

Although it is not required as part of the credentialing process, the ABMS MOC program is recognized as an important quality marker by insurers, hospitals, quality and credentialing organizations as well as the federal government.

We understand that this change will generate a lot of questions. The following is an explanation for those we expect to be most frequent. For additional information you can contact the boards directly. Links are available through the Profile pages and general contact details can be found on BCD under the Resources tab.

### 1. How will this information be displayed on the BCD profiles?

A section will be added below the certifications with a Yes or No indicator for each applicable board.

### 2. How does the MOC Yes or No designation affect lifetime and time-limited certificates?

Diplomates holding a lifetime certificate have the option to participate in MOC, on a voluntary basis. Lack of participation in MOC has no impact on their certification status. At this time, diplomates who hold time-limited certificates under most Member Boards are still board certified as long as their certification has not expired, even if they do not meet the MOC requirements. However, this is not true for diplomates certified by ABP. If they are not current in MOC their profile will display **NOT CERTIFIED** for time-limited certificates only. If other boards determine that certification status should be affected by MOC participation, similar designations will be displayed.

### 3. If a profile displays an expired certification date and Yes for MOC, are they certified?

No, they are not certified if their certification has expired. When they complete MOC activities that their board has determined essential for certification, their certification status will be changed and display the appropriate details.

### 4. If a profile displays No for MOC, but the certification is not expired, is the diplomate still certified?

Yes, they are still certified but they are not meeting MOC requirements. If they do not recertify before their certificate expires, their profile will display **NOT CERTIFIED**. (For ABP diplomates, please reference question/answer 2 in this article.)

### 5. How long is the Yes/No designation effective?

Each board will determine when to report changes in the participation status for their diplomates. Unless other information is indicated, diplomates' certification status should continue to be determined by their expiration dates or a label of **NOT CERTIFIED**. At this time, the designation regarding "meeting MOC requirements" is purely informational.

### 6. What if I have questions regarding MOC participation?

The link in the profile will produce a page with links to the MOC details on each Member Board's website. If you still have questions, you may contact each Member Board directly. Their contact information will appear on their websites and is also summarized in the Approved Specialty Boards file under the Resources tab on BCD.