



The American Board of Anesthesiology



Maintaining Specialty and Subspecialty Certification

On January 1, 2010, the ABA began transitioning from the current subspecialty recertification programs to Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology for Subspecialties (MOCA-SUBS). The MOCA-SUBS program allows ABA diplomates who were certified or recertified in a subspecialty after January 1, 2010 to maintain their certification while demonstrating continual professional development and practice improvement. These diplomates are automatically enrolled in the MOCA-SUBS program after subspecialty certification is awarded. MOCA-SUBS program requirements are available on diplomates' portal accounts via the ABA website at www.theABA.org.

Benefits of Maintaining Specialty and Subspecialty Certification

ABA diplomates may choose to maintain only their subspecialty certification; however, the ABA strongly encourages diplomates to also maintain their primary certification. Diplomates who choose to maintain both primary and subspecialty certification will benefit from overlapping program requirements for Part 1: Professional Standing, Part 2: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment and Part 4: Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement. The ABA is aligning the MOCA and MOCA-SUBS cycles, making it easier for these diplomates to complete all of the program requirements during the same 10-year period. Additional information regarding specific MOCA-SUBS requirements will be sent to diplomates who hold subspecialty certification.

Subspecialty Recertification

Diplomates whose subspecialty certification expires on or before December 31, 2019, can complete the subspecialty recertification program once more before enrolling in MOCA-SUBS. Diplomates can take a subspecialty recertification examination no sooner than 7 years after their most recent certificate was issued. The last subspecialty recertification examinations will be administered in 2016 with all applications due by the December 22, 2015 deadline.

After 2016, the MOCA-SUBS program is the only option for ABA diplomates who wish to maintain subspecialty certification. The ABA automatically enrolls diplomates in MOCA-SUBS upon their subspecialty certification, subspecialty recertification or maintenance of certification in the subspecialty. The first MOCA-SUBS examinations will be administered in 2017.

Questions?

Contact the ABA Communications Center
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Maintaining Specialty and Subspecialty Certification Detailed Requirements

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PART 1: PROFESSIONAL STANDING

Hold an active, unrestricted medical license in the United States or Canada.

All US and Canadian medical licenses must be unrestricted and unconditional.

ACTION ITEM:

Annually review & update your medical license information via your portal account at www.theABA.org.

PART 2: LIFELONG LEARNING & SELF-ASSESSMENT

Continually seek to improve the quality of your clinical practice and patient care through self-directed professional development.

Your total requirement for MOCA is 350 credits of CME activities.

- At least 250 credits must be Category 1 credits. (ACCME/AMA PRA-approved)
- A maximum of 70 credits per calendar year will be credited toward requirement.
- At least 90 credits earned through completion of either the ASA's ACE or SEE programs.
- At least 20 credits of Patient Safety CME available through the ASA and/or ABMS.
- Some of the credits for SEE, ACE and Patient Safety must be related to each subspecialty certification being maintained. These SEE, ACE and Patient Safety credits can be used to maintain anesthesiology certification as well as one or more subspecialty certifications as long as there is CME related to each subspecialty certification being maintained.

ACTION ITEMS:

Submit your CME activities to the ABA via your portal account for any activities completed since the day after you were certified.

PART 2: COGNITIVE EXAMINATION

Demonstrate your cognitive expertise by passing an ABA examination. The exam consists of 200 multiple-choice questions.

Examination prerequisites:

- Satisfactory Professional Standing
- One satisfactory Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement Activity
- At least 200 CME credits granted toward the total of 350

ACTION ITEM:

Between years 7 to 10, pass the cognitive examination.

PART 2: PRACTICE PERFORMANCE & ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT

Case Evaluation: A 4-step process to assess your practice and implement changes that improve patient outcomes.

Simulation: A hands-on opportunity to learn and perform valuable crisis management techniques in a simulation setting at an ASA-endorsed center.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Complete one subspecialty-related Case Evaluation during the 10-year cycle.** This requirement is the same for diplomates maintaining both anesthesiology and subspecialty certifications and diplomates maintaining only subspecialty certification. Diplomates maintaining multiple subspecialty certifications, complete an additional subspecialty-related Case Evaluation for each subsequent subspecialty certification being maintained.
2. **Diplomates maintaining both anesthesiology and subspecialty certification, complete one Simulation Education Course in either anesthesiology, the subspecialty, or some blended combination of both.** Diplomates maintaining only subspecialty certification, complete one Simulation Education Course in the subspecialty.

One activity must be completed between years 1 to 5, and the second between years 6 to 10.

Attestation: The ABA will solicit references to verify your clinical activity.

3. **The Attestation is due in year 9.**