

2024 ABMS Standards for Continuing Certification

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1 What's changing? Will the new standards increase the amount of work I'll need to do?

No, the change will not increase the amount of work for diplomates.

We are moving from a 10-year certification cycle to a five-year cycle, meaning diplomates will need to complete their certification requirements every five years. In our current program, diplomates are required to complete half their 10-year certification requirements by year five of their MOCA cycle. These [five-year requirements](#) remain the same.

2 Why is the certification cycle changing?

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and their Member Boards received feedback from certificate users that a 10-year cycle is too long to ensure diplomates are meaningfully engaged in a program and maintaining the currency of their knowledge and skills. With the exponential growth of scientific knowledge and technical advancements evolving so quickly, the need for more ongoing engagement in learning and new knowledge development has emerged.

3 How and why were the standards created?

The ABMS community sought to evolve the standards to add value for diplomates while continuing to support its mission to provide the public with a reliable, trusted and dependable credential.

The standards were developed through more than a year and a half of deliberation with key stakeholders in response to the recommendations of the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission, an independent advisory body created by the ABMS as well as feedback received from the wider community. The Vision Commission sought feedback from various stakeholders, including the public, physicians and Member Boards, including the ABA.

4 Who is impacted by the new continuing certification standards?

The new [Standards for Continuing Certification](#) impact all [24 Member Boards](#) and go into effect January 1, 2024. This transition means that all board-certified physicians, regardless of specialty, are required to adhere to these standards.

5 Who is the ABMS? Why is the ABA conforming to their standards?

Established in 1933, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. ABMS supports 24 Member Boards that develop educational and professional standards and programs of assessment to certify physician specialists, all dedicated to improving the quality of care to the patients, families, and communities they serve.

As a member board of ABMS, the ABA is governed by ABMS policies. These policies are designed to bring value to the public and the medical profession by providing the public with a reliable and trusted credential while simultaneously bringing value to diplomates by supporting their learning and improvement needs.

The ABA strives to advance the highest standards of the practice of anesthesiology and adapt our standards to keep pace with the growth of scientific knowledge and technical advancements.

6 When do the new standards go into effect?

The new standards go into effect Jan. 1, 2024.

7 What does this mean for my MOCA requirements?

It will be a smooth and comfortable transition to these new standards and we do not expect a noticeable impact to diplomates' existing MOCA requirements.

8

What does the cycle length change mean for my current certificates?

We will not automatically transfer all diplomates to a five-year cycle in 2024. This change will only occur once a diplomate's current certificate expires. Once diplomates are issued their five-year certificate(s), those who do not complete the requirements will risk having their certificate(s) expire.

9

Do I need to do anything to ensure I switch to a five-year cycle?

No, you will automatically switch to a five-year cycle when your current 10-year cycle is completed.

10

Are there any additional costs expected?

There will be no additional fees or costs incurred due to this change. Diplomates will continue to pay their existing annual MOCA registration fee for all certificates held.