

AbstractID: 8336 Title: The ABR Process for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for Medical Physicists.

The desirability of documenting continuing professional competence for individuals within the medical profession and the concept of time-limited certifications have an extended history in the United States. In 1936, the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties (precursor of the current American Board of Medical Specialties – ABMS) referred to “Reregistration at Stipulated Intervals”. Open discussions regarding issuance of certificates valid for a stated period of time only were taking place in the early 1940’s. The first formal policy regarding recertification was adopted by the ABMS in 1973. Enhanced activity began in 1993 when the ABMS reaffirmed this policy with all twenty-four member boards required to establish a mechanism to recertify diplomats. In March 2000, it was agreed that existing or planned programs of recertification would evolve into programs of maintenance of certification (MOC). Concerted efforts by The American Board of Radiology (ABR) toward development of its MOC process began in 1998. At that time, a committee of medical physicists was appointed to help The ABR formulate its MOC program in Radiologic Physics. Beginning in 2002, certification in diagnostic radiologic physics, therapeutic radiologic physics, and medical nuclear physics will be time limited to 10 years. To sustain certification beyond that period, the individual must engage in The ABR MOC for medical physicists that includes 4 elements: 1.) continuing education credits, 2.) self-evaluation of professional status, 3.) letters of attestation from senior individuals familiar with the candidates professional status, and 4.) a series of 3 open-book format, web-based examinations involving new, updated information in medical physics to be completed over the 10-year certification period. All information required would be submitted to The ABR in the final year before expiration of the certificate. Upon positive review, a 10-year extension of The ABR certification would be issued. The presentation will discuss specific details of each of these 4 MOC elements and outline the procedures being implemented to facilitate the MOC process for medical physicists.

Educational Objectives:

1. To become acquainted with the history of MOC as it relates to The ABR process.
2. To understand the elements of The ABR MOC program as required for medical physicists.
3. To understand the process by which the medical physicist may complete The ABR MOC program.