

AbstractID: 2284 Title: The ABR Maintenance of Certification Program (MOCP) for Medical Physicists
In March 2000, the twenty-four member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) formally agreed that all boards would develop programs for Maintenance of Certification (MOC). In some cases, MOC would be replacing existing or evolving programs for recertification of diplomates. As initiated by The ABR in 2002, certification in the 3 categories of Radiologic Physics (Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Therapeutic Radiologic Physics, and Medical Nuclear Physics) is time limited to 10 years. To retain certification beyond that period, the individual must engage in The ABR MOCP for medical physicists. Under the ABMS format, MOC has 4 components: 1.) Professional Standing, 2.) Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment, 3.) Cognitive Expertise, and 4.) Practice Performance. For medical physicists, professional standing will be evaluated through letters of attestation and designated applicable documentation including licensure as applicable. Life Long Learning entails requirements for CME Category 1 credits and involvement in Self Directed Educational Projects (SDEPs as a replacement for the traditional Category 2 credit process) while Self-Assessment requires the individual to evaluate their professional progress at intervals within the 10-year cycle. Cognitive expertise will be assessed through a series of web-based, proctored, timed, open-book format examinations involving a.) core knowledge fundamental to the practice of radiological physics, and b.) new updated information and emerging technology. Practice Performance assessment methodologies for medical physicists are evolving (as they are for our physician colleagues) and will involve consideration of basic competencies including, for example, practice knowledge, patient care, and interpersonal & communication skills. The intent is to establish a web-based, password-protected system for maintaining documentation and facilitating record keeping for the MOC process. 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 certification would be issued. The session format will be that of an interactive forum in which The ABR Physics Trustees will review specific details of the 4 MOC components, provide concrete examples of the processes associated with each component, outline the procedures being implemented to facilitate the MOC process for medical physicists, and define the time lines for candidates currently on the MOCP track. The intent is to allow candidates, prospective diplomates, and other participants the opportunity to ask questions that would enhance their understanding of the process and assist their transition into The ABR MOCP.

Educational Objectives:

1. To understand the components of The ABR Maintenance of Certification Program (MOCP) as required for medical physicists.
2. To understand the process by which the medical physicists may complete The ABR MOC program.

Who Should Attend:

1. ABR Diplomates in Radiologic Physics who have received time limited certificates (TLCs) in 2002 and 2003.
2. Candidates who are planning to take The ABR certification examinations in 2004 or within the next several years.
3. Diplomates who do not have a TLC (certified prior to 2002) but who want to engage in The ABR MOCP for Medical Physicists out of a sense of professional responsibility. Note: All diplomates will be encouraged strongly to engage in the MOCP.