

**2018**

**SUBSPECIALTY**

**MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION**

**BULLETIN**



The American Board of  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
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This Bulletin, issued in March 2018, represents the official statement of the requirements in effect for the MOC process from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE 2018 MOC PROCESS**

### **Starting a new MOC Cycle**

Those diplomates who completed the MOC 6-year cycle in 2017 will enter a new 6-year MOC cycle in 2018. This year, they will be in MOC Cycle 2, Year 1, and they will be designated as in MOC 2.1. Those diplomates who completed their MOC 6-year cycle in year 2016 will now be in MOC Cycle 2, Year 2, designated as MOC 2.2.

### **MOC Integration Pilot Program**

The ABOG introduced a pilot program in 2016 that proposes to enhance and streamline the MOC program. The pilot integrates the self-assessment and external assessment MOC requirements to allow diplomates to continuously demonstrate their knowledge of the specialty. The pilot allows diplomates to earn an exemption from the current MOC Examination in Year 6 of the MOC cycle if the physician exceeds a threshold of performance during the first 5 years of the self-assessment program.

Some diplomates in Year 6 will be eligible to participate in the MOC pilot program. Eligible participants must have a full Diplomate certification status; have answered at least 86% or more of the Lifelong Learning questions correctly in MOC Years 1-5 of this MOC cycle; and have unrestricted licenses to practice. These physicians will be offered a choice to be exempt from the MOC Examination or to take the examination. Year 6 diplomates who are not eligible for the pilot program must apply for the required MOC Examination no later than November 15, 2018, and pass the examination no later than December 15, 2018.

### **MOC Part IV Alternatives**

ABOG continues to expand the list of approved activities which may be used to complete the Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice requirements. The number of hours required for approval of simulation course credit has been decreased to four hours of instruction. Please see page 23 for more details.

### **Clinically Inactive and Retired Diplomates**

Clinically inactive and retired diplomates who wish to maintain their certification must have an active medical license to practice in at least one state.

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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TIME-LIMITED SUBSPECIALTY CERTIFICATES**

1. Certification by ABOG and participation in the MOC process is voluntary.
2. Physicians certified by ABOG in 1986 and thereafter hold time-limited certificates and must begin MOC in the year their certificate expires. MOC is a continuous process and certificates expire on a yearly basis.
3. Diplomates who pass the Subspecialty Certifying (Oral) Examination in April 2018 gain initial certification that will expire on December 31, 2019 unless they successfully meet all of the 2019 MOC requirements.
4. It is a Diplomate's responsibility to be familiar with the information in each year's *MOC Subspecialty Bulletin* as changes are made to the process each year.
5. It is a Diplomate's responsibility to update their Profile on their ABOG Personal Page or to notify ABOG immediately of any change in address, email address, or telephone numbers.
6. ABOG is under no obligation to notify a Diplomate of impending loss of certification, deadlines, or changes in their certification status. However, ABOG will attempt to email reminders to those who may be in jeopardy of losing certification using the email address provided at the time of their most recent MOC application. ABOG is not responsible for a Diplomate not receiving such emails due to change of email address, loss of the notice due to spam or other filters, or any other email problem.
7. Diplomates must enroll in MOC no later than November 15 of the year their certificate expires. All assignments for the MOC year must be completed and submitted by December 15. Failure to complete and submit all MOC assignments by the deadline will result in loss of Board-certification.
8. Each Diplomate enrolled in MOC has a Personal Page showing their progress in the process. The website is accessed at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org) using an ABOG ID number and password. Diplomates are encouraged to review their Personal Page at least quarterly.
9. Diplomates will have access to all MOC assignments when the application process has been completed and the Diplomate has been approved to participate. The application process includes completing the Professionalism and Professional Standing application and paying the appropriate fees. For Diplomates without hospital privileges, an attestation of professional standing

must be completed by another Diplomate and faxed or emailed to ABOG each MOC Year 1 (fax: 214-871-1943; email: [moc@abog.org](mailto:moc@abog.org)).

10. Diplomates in MOC Year 6 who are required to take the MOC examination must apply no later than November 15, 2018 and successfully pass the examination no later than December 15, 2018. Detailed information about the application process, fee, and test content can be found in the section on MOC Part III, Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills, page 18 of this bulletin. Appendix B contains detailed information about the content and format of the test.
11. Diplomates who retire from practice or temporarily are clinically inactive (e.g., not involved in the provision, supervision or administration of patient care) may request to participate in MOC activities. Further information can be found on page 12 of this bulletin.
12. Diplomates whose certification has expired less than 6 years may regain certification through the re-entry process. This requires both passing a computer-based examination and completing the MOC Year 1 requirements in the same year.

## BOARD CERTIFICATION: GENERAL INFORMATION

Board certification is a voluntary process. It is the Diplomate's responsibility to complete all applications and submit required materials to maintain their certification status.

All physicians certified in 1986 and thereafter hold time-limited certificates. To maintain their status as Board-certified physicians, they must participate in the MOC process in the year that their certificate expires and successfully complete all assignments on an annual basis. For example, if a certificate is valid through December 31, 2018, that Diplomate must complete the 2018 MOC process.

Subspecialists who no longer practice in their subspecialty and have a non-time-limited certificate in general Obstetrics and Gynecology may retain their general certification without participating in MOC. They will no longer be certified in their subspecialty MOC cycle the following January when their subspecialty certificate expires.

Diplomates who were in the MOC process for general Obstetrics and Gynecology before passing the subspecialty oral examination will start a 6-year subspecialty MOC cycle the following January after passing the subspecialty oral examination.

The 2018 ABOG MOC process deadlines are:

- a. Applications must be submitted no later than November 15, 2018, and
- b. All assignments must be completed no later than December 15, 2018.

Diplomates who fail to complete all of the assignments for the year by the deadline will have an expired certificate. That is, they will no longer be listed as Board-certified by ABOG and American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and they may not advertise themselves as being Board-certified. A Diplomate with an expired certificate can regain certification only through the re-entry process (See Expired Certificates).

## THE MOC PROCESS

### General Information

The MOC program is a continuing professional development process to ensure that ABOG-certified physicians maintain a high level of knowledge, judgment, and skills in Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Women's Health throughout their careers.

The ABOG MOC is a continuous process based on annual participation and a 6-year cycle. During the 6-year MOC cycle, the Diplomate will complete a number of requirements on an annual basis. After completion of one 6-year cycle, the process restarts the next year.

There are 4 parts to the MOC process, but not all parts are active each year. The parts of the ABOG MOC program include:

- I. Professionalism & Professional Standing
- II. Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment (LLSA)
- III. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills
- IV. Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP)

Some MOC requirements and assignments are still evolving. It is important that the Diplomate read the *MOC Subspecialty Bulletin* each year.

### MOC Application

The Diplomate must apply to participate in the MOC process each year. The application is available on the ABOG website at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org).

Applications for 2018 will be accepted starting in January 2018 and must be submitted with the proper fee no later than November 15, 2018. Failure to submit an application by this date will result in loss of certification. There are no late deadlines and no late fees.

### Requirements for All Applicants for Participation in the MOC Process

Each MOC applicant must meet all of the following requirements to participate in the MOC process:

1. Hold an active, full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in any and all states or territories (United States or a Province of Canada) in which the physician holds a current medical license.



Diplomates may still participate in MOC under an Administrative license depending on their specific state requirements and regulations. Review and approval from the ABOG Credentials Committee are required in order to participate in MOC.

The ABOG may, at its discretion, allow a physician practicing medicine exclusively outside the United States, its territories, and Canada to be certified or maintain certification without a full and unrestricted license in at least one jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada provided that all of the following requirements are met:

- (a) The physician has complied with all legal and regulatory requirements governing the practice of medicine in the country where the physician is practicing and has an unrestricted license to practice medicine in that country; and
  - (b) Any prior license to practice medicine in the United States, its territories, or Canada has not been revoked or suspended, voluntarily surrendered, or allowed to expire to avoid disciplinary action(s).
2. Be of good moral and ethical character.
  3. For physicians with hospital staff membership: If a physician has unsupervised hospital privileges, those privileges must be unrestricted in each hospital in which patient care had been conducted during the past 12 months. Physicians who must have their practice monitored in Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE) identified by Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluations (OPPE) processes will be reviewed by ABOG to determine if the required monitoring or proctoring represents restrictions to clinical practice.
  4. If a physician has resigned from a hospital staff or other healthcare organization, including all membership organizations (e.g., ACOG), while under investigation for ethical, moral, professional, or other alleged misbehavior or substandard patient care, a letter from that hospital or other organization stating that they are no longer pursuing the investigation of the physician must accompany the MOC application. The application will not be approved until and unless such documentation is received from the healthcare organization. If the information is not received by November 15, 2018, regardless of the reason for non-receipt, the physician will not participate in the MOC process and will lose Board certification on December 31, 2018.

5. For clinically active physicians without medical staff membership: If a physician has no hospital practice or medical staff membership (outpatient care only) or is clinically inactive, an explanation must be submitted with the application. Another ABOG Diplomate in good standing, excluding a spouse or other family member, must attest in Year 1 of each MOC cycle that the applicant is of good moral and ethical character and has elected to have limited or no inpatient hospital practice.
6. For clinically inactive physicians: If a physician is not actively involved in the clinical practice of medicine but chooses to participate in the MOC process (e.g., Dean, hospital administrator, health plan administrator, researcher, or sabbatical), a letter of explanation must be submitted with the application. Another ABOG Diplomate in good standing, excluding a spouse or other family member, must attest in a letter that the applicant is of good moral and ethical character and that the applicant has elected not to have a clinical practice.

Such individuals will continue to be Board-certified physicians, but their certification status will indicate that they are not in clinical practice. If the physician returns to clinical practice, a letter must be sent to ABOG indicating that fact.

7. For physicians in international practice settings: Once in each 6-year MOC cycle, physicians practicing in a country other than the United States and its Territories or Canada must submit a letter with the application from a responsible senior official in the hospital or clinical setting where the applicant practices. The letter must attest that they have independent, unsupervised privileges for the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology and that the Diplomate's practice of medicine meets all local standards.
8. ABOG requires documented evidence concerning the applicant's professional standing, moral and ethical character, and hospital privileges (if applicable). This evidence may be collected by ABOG confidentially from administrative officers of organizations and hospitals where the physician is known and practices, from state and local medical boards, from medical societies, and from other appropriate sources of information.
9. By agreeing with the Terms of the Application, the physician must also attest online that in the past 12 months there have been no:
  - a. Disciplinary or non-disciplinary actions (e.g., reprimand, warning, admonishment, restriction, condition, suspension, probation, surrender, denial of renewal, or revocation) on any medical license held in any state or province;
  - b. misdemeanor or felony indictment, plea, or conviction;
  - c. controlled substance, drug, or alcohol-related offenses; or
  - d. limitations, restrictions, denial of renewal, suspensions or loss of hospital

privileges.

Diplomates who are unable to attest to these statements online may not be approved to participate in the MOC process.

10. Physicians who apply for MOC must also attest that they agree to adhere to all ABOG rules and policies.

### **Applicants Not Eligible to Participate in MOC**

Physicians who fail to meet the MOC requirements are ineligible to participate in the MOC process and will lose their ABOG certification upon expiration. To reinstate ABOG certification, they must apply to regain certification through the Re-entry Process (See Expired Certificates). Documentation that the cause for the initial disapproval has been resolved, dismissed, or expired must be submitted with the application.

A physician not admitted to the MOC process may appeal the decision by writing to the ABOG Executive Director within 90 days of notification of the action that is being appealed. The letter must set forth in detail the specific grounds on which the appeal is based. If it is determined by the Executive Director that the complaint is not an appealable issue, the appellant shall be so notified by certified mail within 30 working days. If the Executive Director determines that the appeal does involve an appealable issue the Appellant will be notified by traceable mail within 30 working days. The process for consideration of the appeal is outlined in the ABOG Policy for Appeals.

If the physician's certification expires during the appeal process, that physician will hold an expired certificate and must pass the re-entry examination to reinstate certification. If the appeal is successful, Diplomat status will be reinstated and the Diplomat must complete any incomplete yearly MOC assignments.

## Description of MOC Parts I – IV

### ***Part I: Professionalism and Professional Standing***

A physician's professionalism and professional standing contributes to better patient care and improved medical practice by helping to assure the public that diplomates exhibit professionalism in their medical practice. This includes:

1. Acting in patients' best interests;
2. behaving professionally with patients, families, and colleagues across health professions;
3. taking appropriate care of themselves; and
4. representing their Board certification and MOC status in a professional manner.

ABOG requires an active, full, and unrestricted license in each state in which a Diplomate is licensed as one measure of professionalism and professional standing. ABOG will query each state licensing board through the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) for lists of physicians who hold active licenses. In addition, ABOG is informed through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and other appropriate sources about medical board disciplinary and non-disciplinary actions that are taken against diplomates' licenses to practice.

For clinically inactive or retired diplomates: Some states require physicians with active medical licenses to carry medical liability insurance. Diplomates who are clinically inactive and considering changing from full or active licenses to inactive, exempt, volunteer, retired, or other statuses must contact the MOC office to request the Credentials Committee's approval for a change in Diplomate status to reflect the change in medical licenses. Expired inactive licenses will not be approved.

ABOG requires unrestricted privileges in Obstetrics and Gynecology currently and during the past 12 months at each institution, facility, or hospital where a Diplomate practices as another measure of professionalism and professional standing.

Diplomates must submit a written explanation of any of the following circumstances that occurred since the last MOC application to ABOG:

1. Any disciplinary or non-disciplinary action taken by a state medical board, including reprimands, restrictions, conditions, suspensions, probations, surrenders, or revocations;
2. any hospital privileges restrictions, denials of renewal, or revocation;
3. any disciplinary actions taken by a hospital, institution, or other government agency; and

4. any evidence of mental or physical impairment, including any monitoring by state mandated physician health program (PHP).

ABOG will review the material to determine whether the physician will be allowed to participate in the MOC process. In most cases, ABOG will require the applicant to clear any and all restrictions and/or conditions on their medical license or practice of medicine before participation in the MOC process will be allowed.

Each physician must present evidence of good moral and ethical character and an untarnished professional reputation. The method of demonstrating professionalism and professional standing is different for practice settings.

For physicians with hospital staff membership: If requested by ABOG, a release-of-information form must be signed by the Diplomate. This allows ABOG to make confidential inquiries to any hospital; other medical facility; other healthcare organization (including membership organizations); physicians, nurses, trainees; and patients, as needed, to document that the physician fulfills all moral and ethical requirements.

For clinically active physicians without medical staff membership: If the physician has only an office practice, an attestation form must be completed in Year 1 of each 6-year cycle. The attestation form must be signed by another ABOG Diplomate in good standing and cannot be signed by a spouse or family member.

For clinically inactive physicians: If the physician is clinically inactive or retired, an attestation form must be completed in Year 1 of each 6-year cycle. The attestation form must be signed by another ABOG Diplomate in good standing and cannot be signed by a spouse or family member.

For physicians in international practice settings: Physicians practicing in a country other than the United States and its Territories or Canada must submit a letter with the application from a responsible senior official in the hospital or clinical setting where the applicant practices. The letter must attest that they have independent, unsupervised privileges for the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology and that the Diplomate's practice of medicine meets all local standards. The letter must be submitted in Year 1 of each 6-year MOC cycle.

If the applicant has had a license restricted, suspended, placed on probation, surrendered or revoked by any licensing board or has had any negative action taken by a hospital, medical facility, or healthcare organization, that physician will not be allowed to participate in the MOC process until all such restrictions are removed.

Conditions placed on medical licenses or hospital privileges are considered to be restrictions of practice.

Falsification of data submitted to ABOG or evidence of other egregious ethical, moral, or professional misbehavior may result in deferral of a physician's application to MOC for at least 3 years. Such physicians will lose certification during this deferral period and must apply for re-entry to reinstate Board certification.

It is each Diplomate's responsibility to inform ABOG of any and all actions against a medical license, hospital or other privileges, and credentials, including having their practice monitored.

Physicians with medical licenses on probation for a specified length of time may request or be assigned to participate in the MOC process in a probationary certification status if the reason for probation is not associated with a criminal conviction or plea. The ABOG ad hoc committee of the Credentials Committee will review each request or situation. The decision of the committee is final and cannot be appealed. Physicians requiring more information about the probationary certification status should contact the ABOG MOC office.

## ***Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment***

The Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment MOC component contributes to better patient care by requiring ongoing participation in high-quality learning activities on current knowledge in Obstetrics and Gynecology and its subspecialties. Part II is delivered through article reading assignments from the peer-reviewed literature on clinically relevant patient-management information, best-practice guidelines, and important research and studies.

Annually, ABOG delivers approximately 150 article options to diplomates' ABOG Personal Pages. These articles are released in three 50-article batches, usually during the months of January, May, and August (though some articles may appear at other times during the year). Over the course of the MOC year, diplomates are required to select 30 of these 150 articles, read them, and answer those articles' corresponding assessment questions.

Each article comes with four assessment questions (for a required total of 120 questions from a Diplomate's 30 articles) and all of them must be answered. To successfully complete MOC, diplomates must score 80% or higher on their assessment questions (96 or more correct out of 120).

Those who score under 80% will have to undertake the re-entry process to retain their certification. However, Diplomates are given two opportunities to answer questions

correctly. If a question is initially answered incorrectly, feedback will be given and a Diplomate will have a second chance to answer the question.

In addition, diplomates participating in the pilot program will earn a Part III Exam exemption if they score 86% or above, cumulatively, on their reading assessment questions during their MOC cycle Years 1-5. (For more information on the pilot program, see “MOC Pilot Program” below under the “Part III: Knowledge, Judgment & Skills” section.) For pilot program eligibility, only scores for the first-submitted question answers are considered in the 86% threshold calculation.

All article assignments must be completed on or before December 15, 2018. Please refer to Appendix B for an outline of yearly assignments. After the reading assignments have been completed successfully, the Diplomate will receive 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup> from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Diplomates who are not ACOG members will be charged \$390 each year to cover the cost of administration of the CME credit (for MOC Parts II and IV).

For **specialist** diplomates, the annual Part II reading assignment has two parts:

- a. Read 28 articles (and answer questions) in general obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, pediatric and adolescent gynecology, the four subspecialties, or any of the other available article categories (for example, CDC, emerging topics, or statistics). These 28 articles can be chosen from any article category in any combination.
- b. Read 2 articles (and answer questions) in Patient Safety. For this year, there will be one Patient Safety article counting as a “double credit” article.

For **subspecialist** diplomates, the annual Part II reading assignment has three parts:

- a. Read 20 articles (and answer questions) in the Diplomate’s specific subspecialty article category.
- b. Read 2 articles (and answer questions) in Patient Safety. For this year, there will be one Patient Safety article counting as a “double credit” article.
- c. Read 8 articles (and answer questions) in general obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, pediatric and adolescent gynecology, the other three subspecialties, or any of the other available categories (for example, CDC, emerging topics, or statistics). These can be chosen from any article category in any combination.

For Diplomates holding **two subspecialist certificates**, the annual Part II reading assignment has four parts:

- a. Read 10 articles (and answer questions) in the Diplomate’s first subspecialty article category.
- b. Read 10 articles (and answer questions) in the Diplomate’s second subspecialty article category.

- c. Read 2 articles (and answer questions) in Patient Safety. For this year, there will be one Patient Safety article counting as a “double credit” article.
- d. Read 8 articles (and answer questions) in general obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, pediatric and adolescent gynecology, the other two subspecialties, or any of the other available categories (for example, CDC, emerging topics, or statistics). These can be chosen from any article category in any combination.

### **Articles in General Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Subspecialties**

Each of the three reading assignment releases will contain approximately 18 articles: five in Obstetrics, five in Gynecology, five in Office Practice & Women’s Health, and three in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. Additional articles may also be included (for example, articles on statistics, or emerging topics in women’s health, or articles provided in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

In addition, each of the three reading assignment releases will contain approximately seven articles in each of the subspecialty categories: Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Gynecologic Oncology, and Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery.

Each article will be accompanied by four questions. Three questions will assess core takeaways, recommendations, or conclusions from the article and one question will cover detail-specific information. Some questions may assess the application of the conclusions of the article to patient care.

Diplomates are responsible for obtaining copies of the articles, reading them, and answering the questions accompanying the article. ABOG strives to provide access to as many free articles as possible and all specialist Diplomates should be able to complete their Part II assignments with free articles. However, ABOG does not own the content and it’s up to the discretion of the content owners or publishers to determine whether they offer their articles for free or charge for access. Diplomates who are interested in accessing fee-based articles for MOC are encouraged to contact their institutional or medical libraries.

### **Patient Safety Articles**

In 2018, the Patient Safety and Communication course (previously required in MOC Year 3) has been replaced with articles in a new Patient Safety category. To offer important safety information throughout lifelong learning, Diplomates (both specialist and subspecialist) will read two Patient Safety articles and answer questions each year to satisfy the Patient Safety requirement. For this year, there will be one Patient Safety article counting as a “double credit” article.



## MOC Part II Examples

1. *Throughout the MOC year, an MFM subspecialist reads 8 Obstetrics articles and 2 patient safety articles and submits a total of 40 answers. The Diplomate also reads 20 MFM articles and submits 80 answers. Among the 120 questions answered, the Diplomate scores an 87%. Because the Diplomate completed all the reading and questions and scored higher than 80%, the MOC requirement is met.*
2. *A subspecialist Diplomate submits all 80 answers in Gynecologic Oncology, but none from the 8 required general articles or the 2 required Patient Safety articles. The MOC assignment is incomplete. The subspecialist has until December 15, 2018, to complete the general and Patient Safety articles (and meet the 80% threshold).*
3. *A subspecialist Diplomate submits answers to 40 general articles and 80 REI articles, but only 65% are correct. The assignment is incomplete because the 80% threshold performance on article questions was not achieved to meet MOC requirements. The subspecialist will have to undertake the re-entry process to retain certification.*

## Extra CME Credits

At the time of MOC application (or after completion of the initial 25 CME hours), Diplomates can purchase an additional 10 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* for a \$60 fee. Diplomates who purchase extra CME credits will read 15 articles and answer 60 questions. These articles can be selected from any article category in any combination.

At least 80% of the article assessment questions must be correct and be submitted by the December 15, 2018, deadline to receive additional CME credits. (See MOC Deadlines & Fees.) Diplomates should be aware that completing the additional articles may entail additional fees to access some of the articles from the journals.

*Note: Answering extra CME article questions does not count toward the Pilot Program eligibility score of 86% or the 80% threshold to meet the MOC Part II requirement.*

## Ultrasound Credit Articles

Some of the available Part II articles have been approved by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) for credit toward their continuing education requirements. These articles are denoted with an "Ultrasound" tag in the article list on a Diplomate's Personal Page. Those who would like to receive ultrasound credit should contact AIUM for more details.

## **Continued Enhancements from 2017**

### *Article Selection Limits to Meet MOC Requirements*

- 30 articles must be selected and 4 questions answered per article to complete MOC. A Diplomate is limited to accessing the questions to the first 30 articles he or she selects.
- A Diplomate may read any additional MOC articles at his or her convenience. However, a Diplomate can only access questions for 30 articles.
- Once a Diplomate has submitted answers to each of the 4 questions for 30 articles, he or she will be unable to access additional questions unless additional CME credits are purchased.

### *Answer Submission Limits and Performance Feedback*

- Diplomates will receive immediate feedback after answers are submitted to article questions.
- After viewing any incorrect answers, diplomates have one additional opportunity to correct and submit answers.
- Only the initial answers submitted will contribute to the pilot program eligibility score of 86%. The second (and final) submitted answers will be used to calculate the MOC percentage (80% correct is required to meet the MOC requirement).

### *User Authentication*

- For enhanced security, user-authentication questions can appear randomly when submitting assessment question answers. Diplomates should be prepared to answer questions based on personal biodata, such as year of birth or home zip code.
- If an authentication question appears, a Diplomate will need to answer it correctly before he or she can submit answers for that article.
- Failure to answer a user-authentication question correctly will prevent a Diplomate from submitting questions for that specific article.

## ***Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills***

Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment and Skills builds upon and links to the continuous learning and self-assessment requirements of MOC Part II. These standards contribute to better patient care by incorporating an external objective assessment to provide assurance that there has been the necessary commitment to lifelong learning and to remain current in core content of Obstetrics and Gynecology and its subspecialties.

Diplomates must pass a secure, computer-based examination in Year 6 of each MOC cycle. The test is administered at Pearson VUE testing centers throughout the United States and will be available most days except Sundays and holidays.

## **MOC Pilot Program**

ABOG's pilot program will allow diplomates who are in Year 6 of their MOC cycles in 2018 to earn an exemption from taking the MOC Examination. To qualify for the exemption, diplomates must reach a high performance threshold on their Part II article assessment questions during the first five years of their MOC cycles. (See "Pilot Program Eligibility" below for full requirements.)

ABOG began the pilot program in 2016, which proposed to enhance and streamline the current MOC process. The pilot integrates the self-assessment and external assessment requirements to encourage diplomates to continuously demonstrate their knowledge of the specialty.

The program maintains a rigorous and relevant continuous professional development process that is critical to providing high-quality patient care. The pilot emphasizes demonstration of knowledge throughout the entire MOC cycle. ABOG believes that the pilot will ensure that Diplomates are maintaining a high level of current medical knowledge and are able to apply that information in their practices.

The ABOG pilot program will continue through the end of 2018. ABOG has studied pilot program data and feedback from the two previous years and that data has been submitted to the American Board of Medical Subspecialties (ABMS) for evaluation to permanently adopt the MOC Examination exemption into the MOC program in 2019.

### **Pilot Program Eligibility**

In 2018, only Diplomates in Year 6 of their MOC cycles are eligible to participate in the pilot program. When Diplomates apply for MOC, they will be notified if they are eligible, and those who are eligible must elect to enroll in the program. Eligible Diplomates do have the option to decline participation and to take the MOC Examination instead.

To be eligible, Diplomates must have scored an aggregated average of 86% or higher on their Part II article assessment questions over Years 1-5 of their current MOC cycles. Current running average and historical year-by-year scoring information is available on each Diplomat's Personal Page.

Diplomates will be ineligible to participate in the pilot program if they have any of the following:

1. A probationary certification status.
2. A current state board disciplinary action on their license, such as a revocation, suspension, probation, denial of renewal, or surrender.
3. A felony criminal charge, conviction, or pleading.

If a Diplomat declines to participate in the pilot program, he or she must pay the MOC Examination fee in addition to the annual MOC fee. The Diplomat must take and pass

the MOC Examination in 2018. (See “For Diplomates Taking the MOC Examination” below.)

If a Diplomate chooses to participate in the pilot program, he or she will *not* pay the additional MOC Examination fee. He or she must meet all the 2018 MOC Part I Professionalism and Professional Standing requirements. The Diplomate must have completed the MOC Part IV Improvement in Practice requirements for the cycle. The Diplomate must also meet or exceed the required 86% threshold in MOC Part II Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment.

If a Diplomate is ineligible to participate in the pilot program, he or she must pay the MOC Examination fee with their MOC fee. The Diplomate must take and pass the MOC Examination in 2018. (See “For Diplomates Taking the MOC Examination” below.)

### **Diplomates Who Are Not in MOC Year 6 in 2018**

Diplomates in Years 1-5 of their MOC cycles in 2018 should be aware of the initial answer threshold of 86% used to determine pilot program eligibility. If the pilot program MOC Examination exemption is adopted, Diplomates interested in participating in their Year 6 are encouraged to maintain a high-performance threshold to ensure eligibility.

The ABOG may choose to use different eligibility criteria for the MOC Examination exemption in the future. The eligibility criteria for 2019 will be determined by the results of the pilot program evaluation.

### **For Diplomates Taking the MOC Examination**

When a Diplomate applies for MOC Year 6, they will be notified if they are eligible to participate in the pilot program. Those who do not qualify for the pilot, or those who elect not to participate in the program, must pass the MOC Examination by December 15, 2018. Those Diplomates will be required to pay \$175 to cover the administrative costs of preparing the Examination (in addition to paying the test center fee). This cost is exclusive of the annual \$265 fee to participate in MOC.

When a Diplomate’s application has been approved (usually taking fewer than 4 weeks), information will be sent by email explaining the process to schedule a test at a Pearson VUE test center. Reservations at each test center are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Physicians are encouraged to schedule their Examinations as soon as possible after receiving the notice of approval.

If a Diplomate does not pass the MOC Examination, it may be retaken up to 4 more times during the MOC year. The original test fee of \$175 covers the costs of all repeat Examinations. The last day a repeat Examination can be taken is December 15, 2018.

If a Diplomate fails to pass the MOC Part III Examination by December 15, 2018, his or her certificate will expire. Diplomates who wish to regain certification must apply through the re-entry process to reinstate their Board certifications.

In addition to passing the MOC Examination, Diplomates in MOC Year 6 must also complete the Part I Professionalism and Professional Standing; Part II Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment; and Part IV Improvement in Medical Practice assignments.

A practice test is available on the ABOG website at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org). The structure of the test can be found in this Bulletin in Appendix A. The ABOG policy about MOC Examinations of Diplomates with disabilities is in Appendix B. See Appendix D for information on Diplomates who are lactating.

## ***Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice***

Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) contributes to improved patient care through ongoing assessment and improvement in the quality of care in practices, hospitals, health systems, and/or community settings. This may include activities that result in improved patient or population health outcomes, improved access to health care, improved patient experience (including patient satisfaction), and increased value in the health care system.

There is now more flexibility in meeting this MOC standard. Diplomates may choose the activity most relevant to their own practice and practice setting. Diplomates must participate in one of the available Improvement in Medical Practice activities yearly in MOC Years 1-5. Options that are available include:

1. ABOG Improvement in Medical Practice Modules
2. Multi-specialty MOC Portfolio Approval Program
3. ABOG-approved Quality Improvement (QI) Efforts
4. ABOG-approved Simulation Courses
5. Quality Improvement (QI) Publications

### **Improvement in Medical Practice Modules**

ABOG Improvement in Medical Practice Modules can be accessed through the ABOG website (see below). Each Diplomate chooses a topic that is appropriate to their practice from a list of available modules.

There are two phases to each module. Phase 1 of the module typically involves an evidence-based review, review of up to ten of the Diplomate's patient records, and answering pertinent questions. Some topics involve policy review instead of patient records. Phase 2 of the module process is entitled Impact on Practice and occurs one month later. The Diplomate will receive an email from ABOG and must complete an Impact on Practice question(s) to complete the module. Three AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ will be awarded by ACOG for each module completed.

Diplomates choosing modules must open and complete Phase 1 of a module each year for the first five years (MOC Years 1-5) in each 6-year cycle. Phase 2 will be

available after one month. All modules must be completed before the end of MOC Year 6.

Diplomates will not be allowed to start any assignments in the next MOC year unless the previous year's required module has been Phase started. There is no charge for MOC Part IV IMP modules for ACOG Fellows. Those physicians who are not ACOG Fellows will be charged a CME administration fee of \$390 per year for MOC Parts II and IV.

Modules are accessed through the ABOG website. The Personal Page has a Part IV Improvement in Medical Practice section. The only information retained after the module has been completed is that the physician successfully completed the module. This information will be automatically submitted to ACOG.

### **Multi-specialty MOC Portfolio Approval Program**

Many physicians already participate in quality improvement (QI) efforts in their local practice. The Multi-specialty MOC Portfolio Approval Program (Portfolio Program) is an alternative pathway for healthcare organizations that support physician involvement in quality improvement and MOC to allow their physicians' quality improvement efforts to be approved for ABOG MOC Part IV credit.

Most Portfolio Program QI activities are sponsored by the institution or hospital Quality Improvement departments. QI projects may be multi-disciplinary or specialty-specific in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The projects must meet Portfolio Program standards and be approved by ABOG through the program. Diplomates who meaningfully participate in the QI efforts will meet MOC requirements for a year. An individual project participation and MOC credit may extend for up to 2 MOC years. Longitudinal projects may be renewed for longer QI activities.

To find out more about the Portfolio Program, visit [www.mocportfolioprogram.org](http://www.mocportfolioprogram.org).

### **ABOG-approved QI Efforts**

The ABOG will consider structured QI projects in Obstetrics and Gynecology for MOC credit. These projects must demonstrate improvement in care and be based on accepted improvement science and methodology. Newly developed QI projects from organizations with a history of successful quality improvement projects are also eligible for approval.

How to apply for ABOG approval:

1. Submit a QI application before December 1, 2018 to the MOC Division with information about the activity and the sponsor organization. The application can be accessed via the diplomate Personal Page.

2. ABOG staff will review the application. During the review period, applicants may be asked to clarify information about their activity. Please allow up to 4 weeks for review.
3. The applicant will be responsible for submitting a list of participants each year by Monday, December 10, 2018 to ensure processing before the MOC deadline on December 15, 2018.

Quality Improvement efforts in Obstetrics and Gynecology that qualify for MOC credit must meet the following standards:

1. Have leadership and management at the project level capable of ensuring adherence to the participation criteria. This means that the project must track who is participating, their dates of participation, and their role with respect to the definition of meaningful participation.
2. Address care the physician can influence in one or more of the 6 Institute of Medicine quality dimensions (safety, effectiveness, timeliness, equity, efficiency, and/or patient-centeredness).
3. Have a specific, measurable, specialty-relevant, and time-appropriate aim for improvement.
4. Use appropriate, relevant, and evidence-based performance measures that include measurement related to patient care at the appropriate unit of analysis (physician, clinic, care team, etc.).
5. Include appropriate interventions to be tested for improvement.
6. Include appropriate prospective and repetitive data collection and reporting of performance data to support effective assessment of the impact of the interventions over 2 or more improvement cycles.
7. Represent an attempt at translation or implementation of an improvement into routine care or the dissemination or spread of an existing improvement into practice.
8. Possess sufficient and appropriate resources to support the successful conclusion of the activity without introducing a conflict of interest.

In order to earn MOC credit for participating in approved QI efforts, physicians must:

1. Attest that they have meaningfully participated in the approved QI effort;
2. have their attestation cosigned or reported to ABOG by the project leader; and



3. reflect on the QI effort.

Physician participation in an approved QI effort is considered meaningful when:

1. The QI effort is intended to provide clear benefit to the physician's patients and is directly related to the physician's clinical practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
2. The physician is actively involved in the QI effort, including, at a minimum, working with care team members to plan and implement interventions, interpreting performance data to assess the impact of the interventions, and making appropriate course corrections in the improvement effort.
3. The physician is able to personally reflect on the activity, describing the change that was performed in their practice and how it affected the way care is delivered.

Physicians can claim MOC credit each time they meet meaningful participation requirements as long as they are implementing new interventions.

### **ABOG-approved Simulation**

ABOG recognizes simulation training as an innovative approach to assess a physician's technical, clinical, and teamwork skills in obstetrics, gynecology, subspecialty, and office practice. Diplomates may participate in CME that involves simulation activities provided that the CME is approved in advance by the MOC Division of ABOG. After reviewing the CME content and simulation activity, ABOG will approve CME that meets MOC standards (has relevant and meaningful simulation and self-assessment).

Simulation activity must provide advanced, hands-on, clinical education experiences for participants from a wide scope of practices. It may integrate task-trainers, low- and high-fidelity simulators, computer-based simulations, and actual medical devices to provide optimal learning opportunities.

How to apply for ABOG approval:

1. Submit a Simulation application before December 1, 2018 to the MOC Division with information about the activity and the sponsor organization. The application can be accessed via the Diplomate Personal Page.
2. ABOG staff will review the application. During the review period, applicants may be asked to clarify information about their activity. Please allow up to 4 weeks for review.
3. The applicant will be responsible for submitting a list of participants each year by Monday, December 10, 2018 to ensure processing before the MOC deadline on December 15, 2018.

To ensure high-quality learning experiences that meet the simulation requirements of MOC, ABOG has established standards and will approve activities and CME courses that meet those standards. The following core curricular components for simulation courses must be present:

- A minimum of four hours of total course instruction
- Active participation in realistic simulation procedures or scenarios
- Management of relevant patient-care scenarios with an emphasis on teamwork and communication, if appropriate
- Assessment of technical skills, if appropriate
- Feedback or post-scenario debriefing, if appropriate
- One instructor must be an ABOG Diplomate
- The instructor-to-student ratio must be no greater than 1:5

To receive MOC credit, the Diplomate must actively participate in the entire simulation course and complete a course evaluation. After the activity, the physician will receive email instructions to reflect on the simulation and to answer web-based questions about the impact on their practice.

ABOG MOC credit is independent of CME credit. Some activities and courses may provide CME credit. Contact the site or sponsor for specific CME information about their courses.

### **Quality Improvement Publications, Presentations, and Posters**

ABOG awards MOC credit for authorship or co-authorship of published articles relating to QI activities in health care. To be considered for MOC credit, articles must:

1. Be published in a peer-reviewed journal.
2. Adhere to SQUIRE guidelines for published QI articles (<http://squire-statement.org>).
3. Be published during the Diplomate's current MOC cycle.
4. Be approved by ABOG.

ABOG also recognizes authorship and co-authorship of peer-reviewed oral presentations and posters presented at national scientific meetings that describe the implementation and outcomes of a QI project. The project's ultimate success will not affect the credit, but it should address a recognized gap in care, generally be prospective, and involve more than one QI cycle.

To be considered for MOC credit, abstracts or posters must include:

1. The specific aim of the QI project.

2. The process for improvement.
3. The progress toward or results of achieving the specific aim.
4. A discussion of whether the aim was achieved, factors that affected success, and next steps.
5. Be approved by ABOG.

To earn MOC credit:

1. Submit the publication, abstract, or poster to the MOC Division by mail or email.
2. Provide the date of the publication or presentation.
3. Staff will review and approve completed submissions. Diplomates may be asked to clarify information during the review process.
4. Please allow up to 4 weeks for the review and notification.

Clinical research is valuable but different from QI. Typically, the following will not earn MOC credit:

- Research publications, including comparative trials, before-and-after studies, and other studies intended to answer a clinical or scientific question.
- Descriptions of studies to assess whether an intervention is effective.
- Quality-measure development.
- Retrospective studies of administrative claims data.

## **DIPLOMATES IN NON-CLINICAL POSITIONS**

Diplomates in non-clinical positions, (e.g., Deans, administrators, researchers, individuals on sabbaticals, etc.) may request to maintain certification by completion of MOC Parts I, II, III, and IV. ABOG must be notified of the Diplomat's status and approve any requests for exemption from Part IV requirements.

Diplomates with exemptions from Part IV requirements may be designated as ABOG-certified but currently not in the active practice of medicine. If the Diplomat returns to active clinical practice, ABOG may be petitioned to remove the designation.

## **DIPLOMATES WHO ARE TEMPORARILY CLINICALLY INACTIVE OR RETIRED FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE**

### Diplomates with non-time-limited subspecialty certification

A Diplomat with a non-time-limited subspecialty certificate who retires from active clinical practice must notify ABOG of this transition. The Diplomat will then be listed as an inactive board-certified physician who will be designated as not required to meet MOC requirements.

An inactive, retired Diplomat may request to participate in MOC. Such physicians must pay the appropriate MOC fees and complete MOC Parts I, II, and III assignments each year, as appropriate for a 6-year MOC cycle. Such diplomates will be designated as participating in MOC. In MOC Year 6, these diplomates will be required to pass the Part III MOC Examination or may be eligible to participate in the MOC Pilot Program.

Inactive, retired physicians who only wish to participate in MOC Part II to gain CME credit hours must contact ABOG for approval. Participation in Part II alone will not meet the criteria for designation as meeting MOC requirements.

### Diplomates with time-limited subspecialty certification

A Diplomat who is clinically inactive temporarily or takes leave from their practice for medical, family or personal reasons may request to participate in MOC without hospital privileges or an outpatient practice. Such physicians must pay the appropriate MOC fees, request approval for an exemption from MOC Part IV, and complete MOC Parts I, II and III assignments each year. These diplomates must have an active medical license to practice in at least one state. They will be designated as participating in MOC. Failure to complete the yearly MOC requirements during the temporary inactivity will result in expiration of certification. When these diplomates re-enter clinical practice, they must notify ABOG, meet the MOC eligibility requirements, and resume participation in MOC Part IV.

A Diplomate with a time-limited subspecialty certificate who retires from clinical practice must notify ABOG of this transition. The Diplomate will then be listed as an inactive, retired physician. Such physicians will be designated as not required to participate in MOC. Failure to notify ABOG at retirement and/or failure to continue the MOC process will result in expiration of certification.

All inactive physicians who re-enter practice must notify ABOG of that transition. Inactive physicians with prior time-limited subspecialty certification who have not participated in MOC will be required to regain certification through the re-entry process. That physician will then be eligible to re-enter the process in MOC Year 1.

A retired Diplomate may request to participate in MOC. Such physicians must pay the appropriate MOC fees and complete MOC Parts I, II, and III assignments each year as appropriate for a 6-year MOC cycle. These Diplomates must have an active medical license to practice in at least one state. Such diplomates will be designated as participating in MOC. The first year of participation in voluntary MOC will be designated as MOC Year 1. In MOC Year 6, diplomates in MOC will be required to pass the Part III MOC Examination or maybe eligible to participate in the MOC Pilot Program.

Inactive, retired physicians who wish to participate in Part II to gain CME credit hours must contact ABOG for approval. Participation in Part II alone will not meet the criteria for designation as meeting MOC requirements.

## DATES, DEADLINES, AND FEES

### Dates and Deadlines

<b>Application available</b>	<b>January 2018</b>
<b>Deadline for applications to be submitted</b>	<b>November 15, 2018</b>
<b>Deadline for assignments to be completed</b>	<b>December 15, 2018</b>

### Fees: Years 1-5 not taking MOC Examination

<b>ACOG Fellows and Junior Fellows</b> (25 CME credits for Part II)	<b>\$265</b>
<b>Non-ACOG Fellows</b> (25 CME credits for Part II)	<b>\$265 + \$390 = \$655</b>

### Year 6 taking MOC Examination

<b>ACOG Fellows and Junior Fellows</b> (25 CME credits for Part II)	<b>\$265 + \$175 = \$440</b>
<b>Non-ACOG Fellows</b> (25 CME credits for Part II)	<b>\$265 + \$390 + \$175 = \$830</b>

### Additional CME credit hours Years 1-6

Ten additional CME credit hours may be obtained for an additional \$60 fee each year. Information about this extra CME is available on each Diplomate's ABOG Personal Page.

Fees for MOC have been computed to cover the administrative expenses associated with the process and cannot be refunded or credited to a future year. Fees are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid by credit card through the ABOG website ([www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org)).

Access to the MOC assignments will not be allowed until the MOC application is approved and payment is received.

## **FAILURE TO COMPLETE MOC PROCESS AND LOSS OF BOARD CERTIFICATION**

A Diplomate who fails to enter into MOC or to successfully complete all of the required assignments in any given MOC year will lose their Diplomate status. That is, they will no longer be Board-certified.

***Example:** A Diplomate was required to be enrolled in the MOC Year 1 process in 2017 to maintain certification. An application was completed and the proper fee paid, but the physician did not complete the FPMRS Lifelong Learning and Assessment assignment by submitting the answers to 120 answers by the deadline. That physician will no longer be Board certified as of January 1, 2018.*

Diplomate status may be regained by completing the re-entry process described below. However, during the interval between January 1 and the completion of the re-entry process, the physician is not board-certified and may not advertise or assert Diplomate status.

### **Re-Entry Process / Re-Establishment of Diplomate Status**

A physician who loses Diplomate status by failure to complete the MOC process in any year must apply for, take and pass a secure, computer-based re-entry examination, unless their certificate has been expired for 6 or more years. The physician is also required to complete their MOC assignments the same year that certification is regained. There will be a combined fee for the re-entry process that includes the examination and MOC.

A physician holding a subspecialty certificate that has been expired for 6 or more years should contact the MOC department to learn the process to re-establish their Diplomate status. See the section on Expired Certificates for further details.

### ***Expired Certificates***

The following section applies to previously-certified physicians who have lost ABOG certification due to lack of participation in or failure to complete the MOC process. Such physicians are no longer Diplomates of the ABOG, and may not advertise or otherwise designate that they are ABOG certified. Any designation or advertisement of expired ABOG certification must accurately communicate the dates that the certification commenced and ended.

### **Certification Expired Fewer than 6 Years**

Physicians seeking to regain subspecialty certification must pass a secure, computer-based re-entry subspecialty examination and then complete the MOC Year 1 assignments within the same year. Re-entry examinations will be given January 9, 2018 through June 30, 2018. All examinations will be administered at Pearson VUE testing centers throughout the United States. Diplomates may take the re-entry examination up to 3 times in a year to pass the examination. There is no additional charge for the additional examinations.

### ***A. Application process***

Applications for the re-entry examination will be available on-line at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org) beginning January 2018, but the physician must call the ABOG MOC office at (214) 721-7510 for access to the on-line application. The final date to apply for the examination is June 16, 2018. No application will be accepted after this date. A non-refundable examination and MOC fee of \$765 must be paid at the time of application. No application will be processed without payment of the application fee and submission of all required documents.

### ***B. Testing Sites***

Each applicant will be sent an email after their application has been approved and the appropriate fee has been paid. The email will be sent to the email address provided as part of the application process.

After the email is received, the diplomate should contact Pearson VUE to obtain a reservation for the examination. Instructions for contacting the testing company will be included in the email. Reservations at the testing centers are limited and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Thus, there is no guarantee that a specific city site will be available. Applicants are encouraged to complete the application process as soon as possible.

### ***C. Re-Entry Certification Limits***

Candidates who successfully pass the subspecialty re-entry examination in 2018 will have their Diplomate status re-instated for the remainder of 2018, provided that the Diplomate enters the MOC process in 2018 and completes the assignments by December 15, 2018. Diplomate status will be renewed annually provided that the MOC process is completed successfully each year.

### ***Certification Expired for 6 or More Years***

Physicians who hold a certificate that has been expired for 6 or more years are not eligible to apply for the re-entry examination. They may re-establish Diplomate status only by taking and passing the Specialty Qualifying and Specialty Certifying Examinations.



# MOC for Physicians with Non-time-limited Subspecialty ABOG Certification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Physicians who achieved subspecialty certification by ABOG prior to 1986 hold certificates that are not time-limited. That is, their certificates do not expire. However, those physicians may elect to participate in some or all of the parts of the MOC process. Such participation does not change their certification status in any manner. The duration of their certification remains unlimited.

### Non-time-limited MOC

Diplomates holding non-time-limited subspecialty certificates who wish to participate in MOC must contact the ABOG MOC office for access. They may participate in MOC Parts I, II, III and IV.

The Diplomate must submit the appropriate additional materials and pay the application fees. Please read the sections describing the application process in this Bulletin for those with time-limited certificates. The instructions for application and the fees are identical to those described for Diplomates with time-limited certification.

To be designated as participating in MOC, Diplomates must participate in all parts of MOC applicable to their practice. In most cases this will require participation in Parts I, II, III, and IV. In MOC Year 6, Diplomates in MOC will be required to pass the Part III MOC examination. Diplomates with non-time-limited certification are eligible to participate in the MOC Pilot Program.

Diplomates with non-time-limited certification who prefer to only participate in Part II to gain CME credit hours must contact ABOG for approval. Participation in Part II alone will not meet the criteria to be designated as participating in MOC.

## **Appendix A: MOC Part III Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills for Diplomates with Subspecialty Certification**

### **A. Examination Content and Grading**

1. The subspecialty examinations are secure, computer-based examinations. Each consists of two 50-question selectives. One selective is in the subspecialty, and one is chosen by the Diplomate (See below). The examination will last 105 minutes and will be administered at Pearson VUE testing centers throughout the United States.
2. The questions will be multiple-choice, one-best-answer type and will be based on common clinical problems.
3. A Diplomate must answer a minimum of 75 of the 100 questions (75%) correctly to pass the MOC test.
4. In most cases, Diplomates will receive their test result within 72 hours of completion of the test.
5. We cannot provide feedback on the subspecialty selectives in 2018.
6. ABOG cannot provide a copy of the questions on the test that were answered incorrectly.
7. Each examination is graded independently of any prior examinations. Answers or scores on prior examinations cannot be applied to or graded as part of a repeat examination.

### **B. Test Selectives**

Each Diplomate will have a subspecialty selective and must choose one selective in General Obstetrics and Gynecology at the time of application. The list of choices is shown below:

#### **Subspecialties (50 questions)**

1. Maternal-Fetal Medicine
2. Gynecologic Oncology
3. Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
4. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery

#### **General Obstetrics and Gynecology (50 questions)**

1. Obstetrics, Gynecology, Office Practice, and Women's Health
2. Obstetrics only
3. Gynecology only
4. Office Practice and Women's Health only

### **C. MOC Examination Blueprint**

The following is the breakdown of the approximate proportion of questions for each of the 50 question selectives in General Obstetrics and Gynecology offered in the 2018 MOC examination. Blueprints for the subspecialty examination selectives are not available in 2018.

#### **Obstetrics, Gynecology and Office Practice & Women's Health**

Obstetrics: 30%

- Antenatal Care
- Intrapartum Care
- Postpartum Care
- Miscellaneous (genetics, preconception, etc.)

Gynecology: 30%

- Diagnosis and Preoperative Evaluation
- Surgical Decision Making
- Surgical Technique
- Postoperative Care and Complications
- Miscellaneous (neoplasia, emergency care, etc.)

Office Practice and Women's Health: 30%

- Age-appropriate Routine Care
- Medical Problems
- Gynecologic-specific Disorders
- Office Procedures
- Miscellaneous (psychological problems, domestic violence, etc.)

#### **Obstetrics Only**

- Preconception/Antenatal Care
- Intrapartum Care
- Postpartum Care
- Miscellaneous (genetics, preconception, etc.)

#### **Gynecology Only**

- Diagnosis and Preoperative Evaluation
- Surgical Decision Making
- Surgical Technique
- Postoperative Care and Complications
- Miscellaneous (neoplasia, emergency care, etc.)

#### **Office Practice and Women's Health**

- Age-appropriate Routine Care

Medical Problems  
Gynecologic-specific Disorders  
Office Procedures  
Miscellaneous (psychological problems, domestic violence, etc.)

#### **D. Fees**

The fee for the secure, computer-based examination is \$175. It was determined based on the costs associated with test preparation and the use of the testing centers. The fee must be paid at the time of MOC application.

If the examination is not passed, the physician may retake the examination up to 4 more times before December 15, 2018. There will be no additional charge each time the examination is taken in the same year.

#### **E. Practice Test**

ABOG has posted a practice test at [www.abog.org](http://www.abog.org). The questions on the practice test are representative of the type of questions that will be asked on the actual Examination but are not meant to be interpreted as the actual questions that will be on the Examination.

#### **F. Study Materials**

There is no single source that will serve as the basis for all questions on the examination. Diplomates are advised to be familiar with the material in the *ACOG Compendium of Selected Publications* and publications from the appropriate subspecialty societies. General textbooks in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility are also good resources for study for examinations.

## Appendix B: Outline of Yearly Subspecialty MOC Assignments for 2018

<b>Single Subspecialty MOC Requirements</b>				
<b>Annual Application</b>	Apply at <a href="http://www.abog.org">www.abog.org</a> ; pay fees by November 15, 2018; and complete requirements by December 15, 2018.			
<b>MOC Year</b>	<b>Part I: Professionalism &amp; Professional Standing</b>	<b>Part II: Lifelong Learning &amp; Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment &amp; Skills</b>	<b>Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice</b>
<b>1-5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If requested, submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read 20 Subspecialty and 10 Specialty articles and answer 120 questions.</li> <li>2 articles must be completed in the Patient Safety Category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start one activity per year.</li> <li>Complete Phase 2 of activity started in previous year if unfinished.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If requested, submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read 20 Subspecialty and 10 Specialty articles and answer 120 questions.</li> <li>2 articles must be completed in the Patient Safety Category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If eligible for pilot, choose to participate in pilot program and be exempt from the exam.</li> <li>If ineligible for pilot, pass the computer-based Examination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Phase 2 of activity started in previous year, if unfinished.</li> <li>No new activity required.</li> </ul>

<b>Dual Subspecialty (Triple-Certified) MOC Requirements</b>				
<b>Annual Application</b>	Apply at <a href="http://www.abog.org">www.abog.org</a> ; pay fees by November 15, 2018; and complete requirements by December 15, 2018.			
<b>MOC Year</b>	<b>Part I: Professionalism &amp; Professional Standing</b>	<b>Part II: Lifelong Learning &amp; Self-Assessment</b>	<b>Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment &amp; Skills</b>	<b>Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice</b>
<b>1-5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If requested, submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read 20 Subspecialty (in either or both subspecialties) and 10 Specialty articles and answer 120 questions.</li> <li>2 articles must be completed in the Patient Safety Category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start one activity per year.</li> <li>Complete Phase 2 of activity started in previous year if unfinished.</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If requested, submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read 20 Subspecialty (in either or both subspecialties) and 10 Specialty articles and answer 120 questions.</li> <li>2 articles must be completed in the Patient Safety Category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If eligible for pilot, choose to participate in pilot program and be exempt from the exam.</li> <li>If ineligible for pilot, pass the computer-based Examination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Phase 2 of activity started in previous year, if unfinished.</li> <li>No new activity required.</li> </ul>

## Appendix C: Diplomate Disability

The American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Inc. (ABOG or Board) provides reasonable accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2013 (ADAAA) (collectively the ADA) and, therefore, will provide or allow the use of necessary auxiliary aids, services or testing conditions that do not fundamentally alter the measurement of the skills or knowledge the Board assessment program and examination is intended to test. Diplomates must provide sufficient documentation to permit ABOG to verify the existence, nature, and extent of the disability no fewer than 90 days prior to the date of the MOC Part III Examination if special testing accommodations under the ADA are needed. Accommodations will only be considered with appropriate documentation. This deadline is necessary in order to allow the Board to request the required documentation, to review the records and to verify the disability, if necessary.

The ADA defines a person with a disability as someone with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as walking, standing, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating or working. The purpose of accommodations is to provide equal access to ABOG examinations for all individuals. Accommodations offset the identified functional limitation so that the impact of impairment is minimized by means of an auxiliary aid or an adjustment to the testing procedure. Functional limitation refers to the aspects of a disability that interfere with an individual's ability to function in some capacity on a regular and continuing basis.

The purpose of documentation is to validate that an applicant for test accommodations is a disabled individual as defined by the ADA and to provide guidance in determining effective accommodations. Comprehensive information by a qualified professional is necessary to allow the ABOG to understand the nature and extent of the applicant's disability and the resulting functional impairment that limits access to its examinations. It is essential that an applicant's documentation provide a clear explanation of the functional impairment and a rationale for the requested accommodation.

No diplomate shall be offered an accommodation that would compromise the ABOG's examination's ability to test accurately the skills and knowledge it purports to measure and no auxiliary aid or service will be provided which will fundamentally alter the examination or will result in an undue burden to ABOG.

ABOG shall not exclude any diplomate from the Part III examination solely because of a disability if the ABOG is provided with notice of the disability in time to permit the ABOG to make such adjustments in the examination as are reasonably necessary to accommodate the disability. The diplomate must provide sufficient documentation to permit the ABOG to verify the existence, nature, and extent of the disability no fewer than 90 days prior to the date of the examination. The documentation must specify the requirements or accommodations determined to be necessary to overcome or compensate for the disability. In addition, the diplomate must supply any additional information the ABOG may subsequently request in a timely manner.

If any of the requirements cannot reasonably be provided, ABOG will notify the diplomate and will indicate those alternative accommodations which the ABOG determines to be appropriate in consideration of the disability claimed and documented, and the integrity of the examination. If the diplomate fails to notify ABOG of a disability 90 days before the examination and fails to achieve a passing grade, that diplomate may not appeal the results of the examination, but shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled written examination, but must pay a new application and examination fee.

If a diplomate claims that their examination results were adversely affected by illness, injury or other temporary physical impairment at the time of the examination, that diplomate may not appeal the results of the examination. However, if the diplomate provides sufficient evidence of such illness, injury or impairment, they shall be entitled to sit for the next regularly scheduled written examination, but must pay a new application and examination fee.

## Appendix D: Lactation

Diplomates who are lactating may request a 30-minute break and extension of their examination if they notify the ABOG office no later than 90 days prior to the test, and schedule at a Pearson VUE test center by the same date. If requests are received less than 90 days before the examination, ABOG cannot guarantee that it will be possible to schedule an extended test. Most Pearson VUE test centers have only one room that is available for breast pumping, so diplomates are encouraged to make their reservations as soon as they receive approval for the test as these rooms will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis.