

2020

SPECIALTY MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION BULLETIN



moc@abog.org



(214) 871- 1619



2915 Vine Street
Dallas, Texas 75204



(214) 871-0602

This Bulletin issued January 14, 2020 represents the official statement of the requirements effective for the MOC process from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR THE 2020 MOC PROCESS

MOC Deadlines

- a. Applications must be submitted no later than November 16, 2020, and
- b. All assignments must be completed no later than December 15, 2020.

Diplomates who fail to complete and submit all MOC assignments by the deadline will have an expired certificate. That is, they will no longer be listed as Board-certified by the 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](#)).

National Provider Identifier

Your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number is required to complete certain ABOG tasks, such as submitting applications for applying for MOC and exams. You will be prompted to enter your NPI number on the MOC application. The NPI registry to locate your NPI number can be found at <https://npiregistry.cms.hhs.gov/>. Canadian physicians should use their Medical Identification Number for Canada (MINC).

Application Questions to Increase Clinical Relevance

The types of MOC article-based questions in 2020 include more questions that ask you to apply information learned from reading the articles to patient care. This is in response to standards set by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the National Board of Medical Examiners, as well as feedback from Diplomates to increase the relevance to clinical practice.

CME Options

Diplomates now have three CME options related to completing MOC requirements.

Option 1: If you're an ACOG member, apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee. You will earn 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™].

Option 2: If you're not an ACOG member, apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee plus the \$390 CME fee to earn 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™].

Option 3: External CME Option- apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee. You must complete all MOC activities and meet all requirements, but no CME credits are earned for completion of MOC requirements. You obtain 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] in Obstetrics and Gynecology **on your own** in 2020 and submit those credits to ABOG.

MOC Performance Pathway

The ABOG pilot program launched in January 2016 was approved in May 2018 by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and was permanently adopted in 2019. This program is now referred to as the Performance Pathway, as it offers another way to meet the MOC Year 6 secure computer-based exam requirement (based on a Diplomate's performance on Part II Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment). The MOC exam has not been eliminated; but Diplomates do have another way to meet the MOC Year 6 exam requirement if they choose to participate and if they meet ABOG's Part II article-based assessment performance threshold. Please see the [Performance Pathway section](#) for additional information.

MOC Part IV Application Process

In April 2019, ABOG introduced a new online application process for external activities such as simulation courses and quality improvement efforts. Please see the [MOC Part IV section](#) for additional information.

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KEY INFORMATION ABOUT TIME-LIMITED SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

1. Certification by ABOG and participation in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process is voluntary.
2. Physicians certified by ABOG in 1986 and thereafter hold time-limited certificates. MOC is a continuous process and certificates expire on a yearly basis. 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, 2020, that Diplomate must complete the 2020 MOC assignments.
3. Diplomates must apply to participate in the 2020 MOC process no later than November 16, 2020. All assignments for the MOC year must be successfully completed and submitted by December 15, 2020.
4. Diplomates who passed the Specialty Certifying Examination in November 2019, December 2019, January 2020 or February 2020 gain initial certification that will expire on December 31, 2020 unless they apply and successfully complete all 2020 MOC assignments.
5. It is a Diplomate's responsibility to be familiar with the information in each year's *MOC Specialty Bulletin* as changes are made to the process each year.
6. It is each Diplomate's responsibility to promptly inform ABOG of any and all actions against a medical license, hospital or other privileges, and credentials, including having their practice monitored.
7. It is a Diplomate's responsibility to update information in their Profile on their ABOG Personal Page or to notify ABOG immediately of any change in address, email address, or telephone numbers.
8. 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.
9. Each Diplomate enrolled in MOC has a Personal Page showing their progress in the MOC process that can be accessed at www.abog.org. Diplomates are encouraged to review their Personal Page at least quarterly.
10. 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 ABOG Diplomate in good standing and emailed or faxed to ABOG each MOC Year 1 (fax: 214-871-0602 email: moc@abog.org).

11. Diplomates in MOC Year 6 who are required to take the MOC examination must successfully pass the examination no later than December 15, 2020. Detailed information about the application process, fee, and test content can be found in the section titled [MOC Part III, Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills. Appendix A](#) contains detailed information about the content and format of the test.
12. 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 in the [Diplomates in non-clinical positions](#) section of this bulletin.

THE MOC PROCESS: GENERAL INFORMATION

The ABOG 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.

During the 6-year MOC cycle, the Diplomate will complete several 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 (LLS)
- III. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills
- IV. Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP)

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

MOC Application Requirements

Physicians must apply to participate in the MOC process each year. The application is available on the ABOG website at www.abog.org.

Applications for the 2020 MOC process will be accepted starting in January 2020 and must be submitted with the proper fee no later than November 16, 2020. Failure to submit an application by this date will result in loss of certification.

Physicians who apply for the MOC process must attest that they agree to adhere to all ABOG rules and regulations.

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

1. Hold an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine in any and all states or territories of the United States or Province of Canada in which the physician holds a current medical license.
2. Hold unsupervised, unrestricted hospital privileges in each hospital in which patient care had been conducted since his/her last application.
3. Represent their Board certification and MOC status in a professional manner.

Each MOC applicant must attest online that since his/her last MOC Application there have been no:

- a. actions (reprimands, warnings, admonishments, restrictions, conditions, suspensions, probations, surrenders, denials of renewal, or revocations) taken by a medical board on any medical license held in any state or territory of the United States or province of Canada;
- b. misdemeanors; felony indictments, pleas, or convictions; or deferred dispositions;
- c. controlled substance, drug, or alcohol-related offenses; or
- d. limitations, restrictions, denials of renewal, suspensions or loss of hospital privileges;

Each MOC applicant must also attest online that since his/her last MOC Application there has been no:

- a. disciplinary actions taken by a hospital, institution, or other government agency;
- b. evidence of mental or physical impairments, including any monitoring by a state mandated physician health program (PHP); and
- c. proctoring program mandated by a hospital.

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

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

1. Any and all actions taken by a state medical board, including reprimands, warnings, admonishments, restrictions, conditions, suspensions, probations, surrenders, denials of renewal, or revocations on any medical license held in any state or territory of the United States or a province of Canada;
2. any hospital privileges restrictions, denials of renewal, suspensions or revocations;
3. any disciplinary actions taken by a hospital, institution, or other government agency;
4. misdemeanor or felony indictment, plea, or conviction or deferred disposition;

5. controlled substance, drug, or alcohol-related offenses;
6. any evidence of mental or physical impairment, including any monitoring by a state mandated physician health program (PHP). The physician must supply ABOG with a statement from the PHP Coordinator on her/his compliance with the monitoring program, if there are any restrictions to her/his practice, the date her/his program began, and the duration of her/his program. According to the Federation of State PHPs, any HIPAA or other required consent forms will be asked of the PHP Coordinator/monitoring program and not of ABOG. It is not necessary to have a HIPAA or other required release via ABOG; or
7. any proctoring program mandated by a hospital.

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.

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 Certified 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, Diplomate status will be reinstated, and the Diplomate must complete any incomplete yearly MOC assignments.

PART I: PROFESSIONALISM AND PROFESSIONAL STANDING

ABOG was founded to promote and maintain the highest standards of care in women's health. Board certification by ABOG denotes that Diplomates have demonstrated a commitment to patients' best interests, professional behavior, and adherence to certification requirements. Our accountability is both to our profession and to the communities we serve.

A physician's professionalism and professional standing contribute 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.

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

ABOG requires an active, unrestricted license in any and all states or territories of the United States or province of Canada 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 any medical board actions that are taken against Diplomates' licenses to practice. 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 Subcommittee is required in order to participate in MOC.

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.

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).

If a physician has resigned from a hospital staff or other healthcare organization, including all membership organizations, 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 16, 2020, regardless of the reason for non-receipt, the physician will not participate in the MOC process and will lose Board certification on December 31, 2020.

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, plea or deferred disposition. The ABOG Credentials Subcommittee 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.

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

If the applicant has had privileges restricted, suspended, placed on probation, surrendered or revoked, 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 hospital privileges are considered to be restrictions of practice.

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 in the hospital practice before participation in the MOC process will be allowed.

Physicians with hospital staff membership

If a physician has unsupervised hospital privileges, those privileges must be unrestricted in each hospital in which patient care has been conducted since his/her

last MOC application. 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. If requested by ABOG, the physician must sign a release-of-information form. 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.

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 MOC cycle. The attestation form must be signed by another ABOG Diplomate in good standing and cannot be signed by a spouse or family member.

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 in Year 1 of each 6-year MOC cycle 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.

Physicians in international practice settings

In Year 1 of 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 physician's practice of medicine meets all local standards.

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.

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) to maintain certification.

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, the Performance Pathway offers another way to meet the MOC Year 6 secure computer-based exam requirement if Diplomates score 86% or above, cumulatively, on their reading assessment questions during their MOC cycle Years 1-5 (For more information, see [MOC Performance Pathway](#) section). For Performance Pathway 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, 2020. Please refer to [Appendix B](#) for an outline of yearly assignments.

For **Specialist** Diplomates, the annual Part II reading assignments are:

- 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, emerging topics, hospice and palliative medicine, 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. A "double credit" patient safety article with 8 questions will also fulfill the 2-article requirement.

Diplomates are responsible for obtaining copies of the articles, reading them, and answering the questions accompanying the articles. 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 by selecting open-access 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 a fee for access. Diplomates who are interested in accessing fee-based articles for MOC are encouraged to contact their institutional or medical libraries.

Extra CME Credits

At the time of MOC application (or after completion of the initial 30 article assignments and obtaining 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, 2020, 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.

Answering extra CME article questions does not count toward the Performance Pathway eligibility threshold 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. Diplomates who would like to receive ultrasound credit should contact AIUM for more details.

Continued Part II Enhancements from 2017 and 2018

Article Selection Limits to Meet MOC Requirements

- 30 articles must be selected, and 4 questions answered per article to complete MOC Part II assignments. 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 performance pathway. The second (and final) submitted answers will be used to determine if Diplomates meet the annual MOC Part II 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.
- If an authentication question appears, a Diplomat 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 Diplomat 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 Performance Pathway

The ABOG pilot program launched in January 2016 was approved in May 2018 by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and was permanently adopted in 2019. This program is now referred to as the Performance Pathway, as it offers another way to meet the MOC Year 6 secure computer-based exam requirement (based on a diplomate's performance on Part II Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment). The MOC *exam has not been eliminated*; but Diplomates do have another way to meet the MOC Year 6 exam requirement if they choose to participate and if they meet ABOG's Part II article-based assessment performance threshold.

Diplomates in MOC Year 6 who are considered eligible to participate in the MOC Performance Pathway must have a full Diplomate certification status; have answered at least 86% or more of the Lifelong Learning article-based questions correctly (on first submission responses) in MOC Years 1-5 of this MOC cycle; and have unrestricted licenses to practice. These Diplomates will be offered a choice to either receive credit for meeting the MOC exam requirement or to take the examination. Year 6 Diplomates who are not eligible for the Performance Pathway must apply for the required MOC examination no later than November 16, 2020 and pass the examination no later than December 15, 2020.

To be eligible, Diplomates must have a running average of 86% or higher on their Part II article assessment questions (on first submission responses) over Years 1-5 of their current MOC cycles. Diplomates must also maintain an 86% or higher average in Year 6. Current running average and historical year-by-year scoring information is available on each Diplomate's Personal Page.

Diplomates will be ineligible to participate in the MOC Performance Pathway if they have any of the following:

1. Probationary Diplomate certification status;

2. Current state board disciplinary actions on their medical license, such as revocations, suspensions, probations, denials of renewal, surrenders, restrictions, conditions; or
3. Felony criminal indictments, pleas, or convictions; or deferred dispositions.

Diplomates Taking the MOC Examination

When Diplomates in Year 6 apply for the MOC process, they will be notified if they are eligible to participate in the Performance Pathway. Those who do not qualify, or those who elect not to participate in the Performance Pathway, must pass the MOC Examination by December 15, 2020. 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 \$275 fee to participate in MOC.

When a Diplomate's application has been approved, 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 MOC 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, 2020.

If a Diplomate fails to pass the MOC Part III Examination by December 15, 2020, their 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. The structure of the MOC Examination can be found in this Bulletin in [Appendix A](#). The ABOG policy about MOC Examinations for Diplomates with disabilities is in [Appendix C](#). 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.

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 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. Each Diplomate chooses a topic that is appropriate to their practice from a list of available modules.

Diplomates choosing modules must open and complete Phase 1 of a module each year. Phase 2 of a module will be available after one month to complete. All modules must be completed before the end of MOC Year 6. The only information retained after the module has been completed is that the physician successfully completed the module.

There are two phases to each module:

Phase 1

The first phase of the IMP module includes 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 record review.

Phase 2

The second and final phase occurs 30 days after phase 1 is submitted. The Diplomate will receive an email from ABOG requesting that they complete a set of reflection questions regarding the module.

ABOG-approved Quality Improvement Efforts

The ABOG will consider structured QI projects in Obstetrics and Gynecology for MOC Part IV 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.

Application Process

1. **Apply:** Submit an application before November 16, 2020 to the MOC Department via the online application system. The application can be accessed via the Part IV section of the personal page. Application requirements can be found below.
2. **Review Process:** ABOG staff will review the application within two weeks. During the review period, applicants may be asked for clarification.
3. **Report Participants:** The applicant will be responsible for submitting a list of participants by December 11, 2020 to ensure processing before the MOC deadline on December 15, 2020. Participants should be submitted within the online application system.

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

- 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.
- 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).
- Have a specific, measurable, specialty-relevant, and time-appropriate aim for improvement.
- 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.).
- Include appropriate interventions to be tested for improvement.
- 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.
- Represent an attempt at translation or implementation of an improvement into routine care or the dissemination or spread of an existing improvement into practice.
- Possess sufficient and appropriate resources to support the successful conclusion of the activity without introducing a conflict of interest.

To earn MOC Part IV 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 Part IV 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, and office practice. Diplomates may participate in CME that involves simulation activities provided that the CME is approved in advance by the MOC Department 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).

The 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. Simulations should be peer-to-peer experiences although training fellows and/or residents may be approved.

Application Process

1. **Apply:** Submit an application before November 16, 2020 to the MOC Department via the online application system. The application can be accessed via the Part IV section of the personal page. Application requirements can be found below.
2. **Review Process:** ABOG staff will review the application within two weeks. During the review period, applicants may be asked for clarification.
3. **Report Participants:** The applicant will be responsible for submitting a list of participants by December 11, 2020 to ensure processing before the MOC deadline on December 15, 2020. Participants should be submitted within the online application system.

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 4 (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 in good standing
- Possess sufficient and appropriate resources to support the successful conclusion of the activity without introducing a conflict of interest
- The instructor-to-student ratio must be no greater than 1:5

To receive MOC Part IV 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 Part IV credit is independent of CME credit. Some activities and courses may provide CME credit. Diplomates should contact the site or sponsor for specific CME information about their courses.

Quality Improvement Publications, Presentations, and Posters

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

1. Be published in a peer-reviewed journal.
2. Adhere to [SQUIRE guidelines](#) for published QI articles.
3. Be published during the Diplomate's current MOC cycle.

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 MOC Part IV 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 Part IV 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.

Application Process

1. **Apply:** Submit an application before November 16, 2020 to the MOC Department via the online application system. The application can be accessed via the MOC Part IV section of the personal page. Applicant must include a copy of the publication, presentation or poster being submitted for consideration.
2. **Review Process:** ABOG staff will review the application within two weeks. During the review period, applicants may be asked for clarification.
3. **Credit for QI publications, posters, and presentations:** Applicants will receive credit upon approval; co-authors may also request credit by emailing MOC@abog.org. Co-authors do not need to submit an additional application.

ABMS Multi-specialty MOC Portfolio Approval Program

Many physicians already participate in quality improvement (QI) efforts in their local practice. The ABMS 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 learn more about the ABMS Portfolio Program, visit www.mocportfolioprogram.org.

Clinical Research

Clinical research is valuable but different from QI. Typically, the following will not earn MOC Part IV 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 with exemptions from Part IV requirements are still required to complete all other MOC assignments by December 15, 2020.

DIPLOMATES WHO ARE TEMPORARILY CLINICALLY INACTIVE OR RETIRED FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE

Diplomates with non-time-limited specialty certification

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

An inactive, 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. 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 Performance Pathway.

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 specialty certification

A Diplomate 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 unrestricted 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 specialty 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 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, unrestricted medical license to practice in at least one state. Such Diplomates will be designated as meeting MOC requirements. 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 Performance Pathway.

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.

MOC DATES, DEADLINES, AND FEES

Dates and Deadlines

Application available	January 2020
Deadline for applications to be submitted	November 16, 2020
Deadline for assignments to be completed	December 15, 2020

Fees

The 2020 ABOG MOC fee is \$275.

CME Options

Diplomates now have three CME options related to completing MOC requirements.

Option 1: If you're an ACOG member, apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee. You will earn 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] for Part II and up to 3 CME credits for Part IV.

Option 2: If you're not an ACOG member, apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee plus the \$390 CME fee to earn 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] for Part II and up to 3 CME credits for Part IV.

Option 3: External CME Option- apply for MOC and pay the \$275 MOC fee. You must complete all MOC activities and meet all requirements, but no CME credits are earned for completion of MOC requirements. You obtain 25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™] in Obstetrics and Gynecology **on your own** in 2020 and submit those credits to ABOG.

Diplomates in Year 6 taking MOC Part III Exam

The MOC Examination fee is \$175 and is in addition to the Annual MOC fee of \$275 and the CME fees if non-ACOG Fellow desiring CME credit.

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 Diplomat'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).

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 with time-limited certification completes a 2020 MOC application and pays the MOC fee. However, the physician does not complete the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment assignment by submitting the answers to less than 120 questions by the deadline. That physician will no longer be Board-certified as of January 1, 2021.*

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 specialty certificate that has been expired for 6 or more years must complete the specialty written and oral examinations to re-establish their Diplomate status. See the section below 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 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 certification must pass a secure re-entry computer-based examination and then complete the MOC Year 1 assignments within the same year. Re-entry examinations will be given January 9, 2020 through June 30, 2020. 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.

Application Process

Applications for the re-entry examination will be available at www.abog.org beginning in January 2020, but the physician must call the ABOG MOC Department at (214) 871-1619 for access to the on-line application. No application will be accepted after June 15, 2020. A non-refundable combined examination and MOC fee of \$775 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. The final date to take and pass the examination is June 28, 2020.

Testing Sites

Each applicant will be sent an email after his or her 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 candidate 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 their application process as soon as possible.

Re-Entry Certification Limits

Candidates who successfully pass the re-entry examination in 2020 will have their Diplomate status re-instated for the remainder of 2020 provided that the Diplomate enters the MOC process in 2020 and completes the assignments by December 15, 2020. 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 SPECIALTY ABOG CERTIFICATION

General Information

Physicians who achieved specialty certification by ABOG prior to 1986 hold certificates that are non-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 specialty 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 Performance Pathway.

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 meeting MOC requirements.

APPENDIX A: MOC PART III ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, JUDGMENT & SKILLS FOR DIPLOMATES WITH SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

Examination Content and Grading

1. The specialty examination is a secure, computer-based examination. It consists of two 50-question selectives 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. In addition to the total score, Diplomates will receive comments concerning their performance on subcategories of the test.

Example: *Congratulations, you have successfully passed the MOC Examination with a total score of 87.*

You may wish to review additional material in the following subjects as you failed to answer 75% of the questions in that area correctly:

*Intrapartum Care
General Office Practice and Women's Health*

5. ABOG cannot provide a copy of the questions on the test that were answered incorrectly.
6. 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.

Test Selectives

Each Diplomate must choose 2 selectives at the time of application. The list of choices is shown below. *A Diplomate may choose the same topic from each list.*

Selective A (50 questions)

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

3. Gynecology only
4. Office Practice and Women's Health only

Selective B (50 questions)

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

Examples:

1. *A Diplomate practices the full spectrum of Ob/Gyn and chooses Selectives A1 and B1.*
2. *A Diplomate practices the full spectrum of Ob/Gyn but has a large OB practice. Selectives A1 and B2 are chosen.*
3. *A Diplomate practices as a Laborist. Selectives A2 and B2 are chosen.*
4. *A Diplomate practices as a Gynecologist. Selectives A3 and B3 are chosen.*

MOC Examination Blueprint

The following is the breakdown of the approximate proportion of questions for each of the 50-question selectives offered in the 2020 MOC Examination.

Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Office Practice & Women's Health (Selective A1 and B1)

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 (Selective A2 and B2)

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

Gynecology Only (Selective A3 and B3)

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

Office Practice and Women's Health (Selective A4 and B4)

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

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, 2020. There will be no additional charge each time the examination is taken in the same year.

Practice Test

ABOG has posted a practice test at 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.

Study Material

There is no single source, which will serve as the basis for all questions on the

examination. Diplomates may want to be familiar with current general textbooks in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

APPENDIX B: OUTLINE OF YEARLY SPECIALTY MOC ASSIGNMENTS

Specialty MOC Requirements				
Annual Application	Apply at www.abog.org ; pay fees by November 16, 2020; and complete requirements by December 15, 2020.			
MOC Year	Part I: Professionalism & Professional Standing	Part II: Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment	Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment & Skills	Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice
1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation if requested by ABOG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read 30 articles in any category and answer 120 questions. 2 articles in the Patient Safety Category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start one activity per year.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit medical license(s) and outpatient practice attestation if requested by ABOG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read 30 articles in any category and answer 120 questions. 2 in the Patient Safety Category. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If eligible for Performance Pathway, choose to participate and receive credit from the exam. If ineligible for Performance Pathway or choose to take the exam, pass the computer-based MOC Examination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required

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 MOC 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 his/her 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, he/she 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 MOC Part III secure computer-based 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.