



## American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine

**Date:** April 29, 2009  
**To:** ABEM Diplomates participating in MOCP  
**From:** ABEM Board of Directors  
**Subject:** Changes to the ABEM Maintenance of Certification Program

---

**Attention Diplomates.** The ABEM Board recently reviewed the Maintenance of Certification Program (MOCP) and approved changes to help make the program easier for Diplomates and to improve the ABEM's commitment to assuring Diplomates are involved in lifelong learning. The following changes to the MOCP are effective as of April 30, 2009:

1. **Retaking the Original Certification Examination is No Longer Required:** Diplomates who do not recertify before their certificate expires will no longer be required to sit for the original certification examination to regain ABEM certification. Diplomate status will lapse. Diplomates can take the maintenance examination at any time to reestablish their Diplomate status.
2. **Category 2 CME Credits Eliminated:** Category 2 CME credits will no longer be required.
3. **Category 1 CME Credits Increased:** All Diplomates who enroll in the MOCP after April 30, 2009, and all Diplomates who passed the certification examination in 2009 or after are required to report 150 Category 1 CME credits during the 10-year certification cycle. Diplomates who are currently enrolled in the MOCP will only need to record 50 Category 1 CME during this 10-year cycle. Following successfully passing the MOCP examination, 150 Category 1 CME credits will be required for the subsequent 10-year cycles. Certificate of Recognition Holders are not required to record Category 1 CME but must record formal education hours – see number 8 below.
4. **CME Reporting Period Changed to Match Calendar Year:** The annual period for recording CME credits will be changed to January 1 – December 31 instead of July 1 – June 30. If in 2008 you recorded CME hours from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in 2009 you must file a CME Declaration and Recording Form that covers July 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009. If you are missing recordings for years before 2008, these should be recorded using the July 1 – June 30 timeframe. Only CME recording after 2009 will use the January – December timeframe.
5. **Early Examination CME No Longer Prorated:** Early examination is still allowed, however, the CME credit requirements will not be prorated. All CME credit requirements must be satisfied before sitting for the MOCP examination.
6. **Certificates Dated 10 Years from Original Certification for Diplomates taking MOCP Examination in Year 9 and 10:**
  - If the MOCP examination is taken in years 9 or 10 of the 10-year certification cycle, the newly issued certificate will be dated to expire 10 years from the expiration date of the prior certificate. If the examination is taken in year 9, the annual CME Recording Fee for year 10 will not be required. Certificates will issue immediately for those taking the examination in year 9. For Diplomates taking the MOCP examination in year 9, the first CME Declaration and Recording Form will be due by December 31 two years after the MOCP examination.

Example: Original certificate valid 1999-2009. Physician takes the examination in 2008. The new certificate is dated 2009-2019. First CME Declaration and Recording Form is due December 31, 2010 for CME credits earned during January 2010 – December 2010.

Example: Original certificate valid 1999-2009. Physician takes the examination in 2009. The new certificate is dated 2009-2019. First CME Declaration and Recording Form is due December 31, 2010 for CME credits earned during January 2010 – December 2010.

- If the MOCP examination is taken before year 9 of the 10-year certification cycle, the newly issued certificate will be dated to expire 10 years from the date of the MOCP examination. The annual CME Declaration and Recording Forms and Fees will continue to be due each year for the next 10-year cycle.

Example: Original certificate valid 1999-2009. Physician takes the examination in 2007. The new certificate is dated 2007-2017. First CME Declaration and Recording Form is due December 31, 2008 for CME credits earned during January 2008 – December 2008.

**7. MOCP Examination Must be Taken by Year 10 or Certification will Lapse:** For holders of time-limited certificates, ABEM certification will lapse (expire) if all applicable MOCP requirements are not satisfactorily completed prior to the end of the Diplomate's 10-year certification cycle. Diplomates no longer have the option of passing the maintenance examination by year 12 before certification will lapse.<sup>†</sup> Former Diplomates whose certification has lapsed may regain certification by completing any outstanding MOCP requirements in effect at the time of application to the examination including:

- Completing and reporting of CME credits
- Payment of outstanding annual CME Recording Fees including lapsed years.
- Have a current, unexpired license to practice medicine
- Have a current, unexpired primary board certificate
- Receiving a passing score on the MOCP examination

Example: Original certificate valid 1999-2009. Physician has recorded 50 Category 1 Hours and paid fees only 2 of the 10 years. Physician wants to take the examination in 2015. The physician would need to document 100 Category 1 hours and pay 8 years of fees. The new certificate is dated 2015-2025. The ABEM website would show both the original certification dates and the new dates.

**8. Formal Education Hours Increased for Certificate of Recognition Holders:** Certificate of Recognition (COR) holders who enroll in the MOCP after April 30, 2009 and all COR holders who passed the certification examination in 2009 or after are required to report 150 formal education hours during the 10-year certification cycle. COR holders who are currently enrolled in the MOCP will only need to record 50 formal education hours during the current 10-year cycle. Following successfully passing the MOCP examination, 150 formal education hours will be required for the subsequent 10-year cycles. AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ are not required, but can be used for formal education hours.

Formal education hours are defined as any course, seminar, meeting, or other formal educational activity which requires physician attendance and is sponsored by a hospital, medical school, medical association or medical specialty society. Books, web-based education, journal articles, CD/DVDs, etc., that include questions and answers that allow the physician to evaluate the knowledge learned from reviewing the material are also permissible formal education hours.

<sup>†</sup>**Note:** For Diplomates with time-limited certificates issued in 1997, 1998, or 1999, the ABEM will allow you to sit for the examination in 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively, with no lapse in certification. You must follow the current MOCP rules to qualify. All Diplomates with certification dated 2000 and forward must take the MOCP examination prior to the end of the 10-year certification cycle in order to ensure no lapse in certification.

If you have any questions, please call (507.288.0100) or email ([abem@abemexam.org](mailto:abem@abemexam.org)).

**American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine**

2621 Superior Drive NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
Telephone: 507. 288.0100  
Fax: 507.288.1225