

American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine

Maintenance Examination Information For Candidates



2012

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www.abemexam.org

Key Dates and Fees

2012 MOCP EXAMINATION Grande Lakes Orlando Orlando, Florida

KEY DATES

Early Application Deadline	August 17
Application Deadline	September 7
Supporting Documentation and CME Deadline	September 21
Examination Fee Refund Request Deadline	September 7
MOCP Examination	October 6
Notification of Examination Results	November 6

MOCP APPLICATION, EXAMINATION, AND FEES

Early Application Fee (nonrefundable)	\$100
Application Fee After August 17 (nonrefundable)	\$200
Examination Fee (refundable until September 7 with written refund request)	\$475

No applications will be processed without receipt of the application fee, examination fee, and all current and/or past due CME recording fees.

Notice: Deadlines are firm and not subject to exception. The content of this publication is subject to change from year to year. It is the applicant's responsibility to seek information concerning the current requirements for maintaining certification. The most current information found on the ABEM website (www.abemexam.org) supersedes the information in all published booklets concerning Board requirements, policies, and procedures.

The ABEM does not discriminate among applicants on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Application Timetable and Certificate Expiration

Application Timetable

Diplomates must complete all MOCP requirements including passing the examination prior to the end of the Diplomat's 10-year certification in order to avoid a lapse in certification. Former Diplomates whose certification lapses may regain certification by completing any outstanding MOCP requirements.

Examination Prior to Certificate Expiration

Diplomates may take the MOCP examination at any time, provided all outstanding MOCP requirements in effect at the time of filing the application have been satisfied.

Diplomates who take the MOCP examination in year 9 or 10 will be issued a certificate 10 years from the original certificate expiration date. If your original certificate is dated 2000 and you take the examination this year, your new certificate will be dated 2011-2020. If the 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.

Application and Eligibility Requirements

To apply for the maintenance examination, Diplomates must:

1. Submit a current primary Board certificate from the ABPN, ABPMR, Canadian equivalent or AOA equivalent.¹
2. Submit a valid and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States, or territory of the United States or Canada. If the license held by the participant is restricted or with qualifications, details must be provided.²
3. Record all required CME hours with the ABEM Executive Office.
 - 50 Category 1 CME credits³ for Diplomates currently enrolled in the MOCP. Following successful completion of the MOCP examination, 150 Category 1 CME credits³ will be required.
 - 150 Category 1 CME credits³ for Diplomates enrolled in the MOCP in 2009 or after.
4. Sign a statement affirming their commitment to practice medicine in an ethical manner.

Diplomates will need to provide documentation verifying the above requirements when applying for the examination.

It is the responsibility of the Diplomat to notify the ABEM Executive Office in writing of changes that may affect the Diplomat's application.

Diplomates must meet eligibility requirements for the year in which the examination is taken, regardless of prior approval. Eligibility does not carry over automatically from year to year.

¹ Certificate of Recognition (COR) holders must submit documentation from their home country.

² COR holders must document current license to practice in their home country.

³ COR holders are required to document formal education hours. This does not need to be Category 1 CME. See page 7 for a definition of formal educational hours.

Examination Format

The examination is a half-day, proctored examination containing approximately 125 multiple-choice questions that test cognitive knowledge **relevant to the clinical experience of electrodiagnostic medicine**. Emphasis is placed on diagnosis, management, and prevention of disease. All questions are written by ABEM certified electrodiagnostic medicine physicians. The multiple-choice examination tests knowledge in the areas of:

- Electromyography
- Nerve Conduction Studies
- Focal Neuropathy
- Generalized Neuropathies
- Radiculopathies
- Motor Neuron Disease
- Myopathies and Myotonic Disorders
- Neuromuscular Junction Disorders
- Ethics, Safety, and other Techniques
- AANEM Practice Parameters

Reference Material

Information needed for the examination is available in standard text books and journals dealing with clinical neurophysiology. Since the emphasis is on clinical practice issues, it may be helpful to attend the courses, workshops, etc., offered at the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) annual meeting. AANEM publications such as the electrodiagnostic self-assessment examination, monographs, case reports, and course books are also excellent study resources. Please note the **ABEM does not necessarily consult these sources when developing examination questions.**

Examination Scoring and Release of Results

Scoring the Examination

The number of correct responses will be totaled to determine the examinee's score. The passing score will be based on an analysis of specific questions performed prior to the examination. Examination results will be sent to all Diplomates via email. It is the candidates responsibility to provide the ABEM with their most current contact information. Diplomates who fail the MOCP examination will only receive a failing score notification. Diplomates passing the MOCP examination will receive their raw score and percentile of those passing the examination.

Release of Examination Results

By applying for the examination, Diplomates agree that the Board may, at its discretion, release examination results and scores to researchers selected by the Board to study the testing and evaluation programs under appropriate conditions of confidentiality. Any such studies will contain information about Diplomates only in the aggregate, and the names of individuals will not be revealed in any publications. Aside from the above reasons, individual examination scores will be considered to be confidential and will not be released to others except pursuant to legal process.

Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

Q. Where do I get the application for the MOCP examination?

A. It is on the ABEM website at www.abemexam.org.

Q. How many CME credits are required?

A. Those that are already enrolled in the Maintenance of Certification Program as of April 30, 2009 are required to have recorded 50 Category 1 CME credits. Following successful completion of the examination, in the next 10-year cycle 150 Category 1 CME credits will be required. You will not need to record Category 2 CME.

Q. How do I know if I have recorded the correct number of CME credits?

A. Contact the ABEM at 507.288.0100 or abem@abemexam.org

Q. How soon will I know if my application has been accepted or rejected?

A. Once all your documents are received, you will be notified that your application has been accepted or rejected. This process can take a few weeks and is dependent on when all your supporting documentation is received. The sooner you submit ALL the required documents, the sooner your application will be reviewed. Due to the large number of applications received at the deadline dates, applications received at those times will take longer to process.

Q. Why should I participate in the MOCP?

A. Participation in the maintenance of certification program shows to your patients and colleagues that you are committed to lifelong education in your field.

APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

Q. How do I withdraw my application?

A. You should contact the ABEM in writing requesting your application be withdrawn from consideration. An email request is preferred.

Q. If I withdraw my application will the fees be refunded?

A. The application fee is nonrefundable, regardless of when you withdraw your application. If you submit an examination fee refund request in writing before the refund request deadline, your examination fee will be refunded.

RESULTS

Q. Once the examination is complete, how soon will I receive the results?

A. You will be notified of the results of the examination within 2 months after the date of the examination.

Q. What happens to my status if I fail the MOCP examination?

A. If you have a time-limited certificate that has not yet expired, there will be no change in your status. If you have a time-limited certificate that has expired, you will not be listed as being certified by the ABEM until you pass the MOCP examination. If you have a certificate that is not time limited, you will still be listed as being certified by the ABEM, but you will not be listed as participating in the MOCP.

Q. Once I pass the MOCP examination, do I have to do anything else?

A. You need to continue to file your CME Declaration Forms by December 31 each year for another 10-year cycle.

CERTIFICATE DATES AND EXPIRED CERTIFICATES

Q. If I take the examination 2 or more years before the expiration date of my current certificate, what dates will show on my certificate?

A. Your certificate will be dated from the year you took the MOCP examination. If your original certificate expires in 2014 and you take the examination in 2012, your new certificate will be dated 2012-2022. If you waited and took the examination 1 year before your certificate expires, (i.e., in 2013) your new certificate would be dated 2014-2024.

Q. What happens if I do not take the examination before my current certificate expires?

A. The ABEM website will show that your certificate has expired.

Q. How do I renew my expired certification? Do I have to retake the original ABEM examination?

A. No, you don't have to take the original certification examination. You simply need to meet all the requirements for the MOCP examination. The ABEM website, however, will show a lapse in certification.

CERTIFICATES NOT TIME LIMITED

Q. I have a certificate that is not time limited. What happens if I participate in MOCP?

A. Holders of certificates that are not time limited are strongly encouraged to enter the MOCP. For individuals who do so, their certificates will remain in effect, no matter what the outcome of the MOCP process. You will not lose certification through participation in the program.

Q. Can I obtain CME for taking the exam?

A. No, the American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award criteria does not allow Category 1 credit for certification examinations.

Q. What type of CME credits count for the MOCP? Must the CME credits be for EMG/NCS-specific educational sessions?

A. The credits claimed to fulfill the MOCP CME requirement must be from educational sessions providing information that is applicable to a Diplomate's practice as an EDX physician. The CME credits do not need to be from EMG or NCS-specific educational courses. Since EDX medicine may only be a subset of a Diplomate's overall practice, he or she will usually earn a number of CME credits for educational sessions that do not necessarily apply to his or her EDX practice. Those courses should not be counted toward the MOCP CME requirement.

For example, CME credits earned for sessions on ethics, office management, or physician-patient relations, although not EMG/NCS specific, may be appropriately claimed to fulfill the MOCP CME requirement. Conversely, CME credits earned for a sessions on EEG, sleep medicine, strokes, spinal injections, etc., would not be applicable to a Diplomate's EDX practice and should not be claimed as part of the MOCP.

Diplomates should use their best judgment when claiming CME credits.

Revocation of Certificate

The ABEM Board shall have authority to revoke any certificate issued by it or to place a certificate holder on probation for a fixed or indefinite time if:

- The certificate was issued contrary to or in violation of the Bylaws or any rule or regulation of the Board.
- The person to whom the certificate was issued made any material misstatement or omission of fact to the Board in his or her application or otherwise.
- A license to practice medicine of the person to whom the certificate was issued is forfeited, revoked, or suspended.
- The person to whom the certificate was issued is convicted of a felony or an offense involving moral turpitude.

The Board may also revoke any certificate if the Diplomate's primary board certificate has lapsed, been suspended, or revoked. Any complaint in relation to such circumstances shall be reviewed according to procedures established by the Board.

Americans With Disabilities Act

The ABEM supports the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Diplomates desiring accommodations for documented disabilities must complete a Disability Accommodation Request Form, which is available from the ABEM Executive Office or online at www.abemexam.org.

Certificate of Recognition Holders

Certificate of recognition holders need to complete formal education hours. AMA PRA Category 1 CreditsTM 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. Go to www.aanem.org/education/cmeonline.cfm for online CME opportunities. Journal CME is also a good source of formal education hours. It is offered through *Muscle & Nerve*, *Neurology*, *PM&R*, and other medical journals. Formal education hours do not have to be obtained in the United States.



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