



# MOC Now More Efficient and Effective

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) has made significant changes to its Maintenance of Certification Program (MOC) over the past several years. Many changes were prompted by diplomates who believe in the benefits of certification and ongoing assessment, and want to help improve the process.

The ABP is striving to make the MOC process more efficient and effective for pediatricians who want to provide excellent care for children. MOC provides tools for life-long learning, knowledge assessment, and quality improvement.

The ABP realizes that pediatricians engage in a wide variety of learning and improvement activities that meet ABP standards, and the board has implemented more ways for pediatricians to *claim credit for activities they already are doing*.

For example, Life-Long Learning and Self-Assessment (Part 2) credit may be claimed for many CME activities that meet ABP standards through a collaboration between the ABP and the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). To date, more than 1000 CME activities registered with ACCME now offer ABP MOC Part 2 credit.

Until this year, the only option pediatricians had for passing the MOC exam (Part 3) was to go to a secure testing center once every 10 years and sit for hours answering 120 questions. Now, the ABP is pilot-testing a new method for assessing the knowledge of general pediatricians who wish to maintain certification. In the pilot, MOCA-Peds (Maintenance of Certification Assessment for Pediatrics) delivers 20 questions electronically each quarter directly to participating ABP-certified pediatricians via their computer or mobile device, to be answered at any time during the quarter. MOCA-Peds combines assessment with learning as pediatricians find out immediately whether their answer was right. They also get an explanation of the correct answer. If the pilot is successful – and it appears to be – MOCA-Peds will become an option for the secure exam for general pediatricians and subspecialists alike, starting in 2019.

Other significant changes have been made to the practice improvement requirement (Part 4), which supports pediatricians' efforts to measure the quality of their care, adopt improvements in practice that have been proven successful by their peers, and then measure their success in their own practice. The ABP encourages pediatricians to work locally and create their own QI projects applicable to their own practices, and use a short (recently improved) form to apply to the ABP to claim MOC credit. Working to improve any process that is intended to support the health of children (including improvements in medical education and in research), can earn Part 4 credit. For example:

- Meeting the MOC requirements of other certifying boards.
- Being meaningfully involved in QI projects as part of earning NCQA PCMH/PCSP certification, Engaging in QI to address areas that were identified during a training program's annual Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) evaluation or self-study.
- Contributing to improved health care quality through institutional quality improvement leadership.
- Participating in an institution's approved QI projects and in many improvement networks and collaboratives.

In addition, more than 130 institutions and organizations, such as the AAP, are designated as [Portfolio Sponsors](#) by the ABP or the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Portfolio Sponsors award Part 4 credit to diplomates who participate in the portfolio's approved QI projects.

The ABP is also working to improve enrollment and payment processes. It has long frustrated and confused diplomates that the 5 year MOC cycle and the 10 year exam cycles were not synchronized, and diplomates

could only pay for their MOC cycles with a large payment at the time of the 5-year enrollment. The ABP is in the process of aligning those cycles and, beginning in January 2018, will provide pediatricians who are re-enrolling in MOC the choice of paying the MOC fee on an annual basis (\$275) rather than in a lump sum every five years (\$1304). The annual MOC re-enrollment fee will compare favorably with other professional fees (e.g., society dues or CME activities). The ABP has not raised fees in several years.

The work of the ABP is done by more than 350 pediatricians, all of whom are meeting MOC requirements, and invites pediatricians who want to support the certification process to [nominate themselves](#) for an appointment to one of the ABP's General Pediatrics Examination Committees or Subspecialty Subboards.

The table below summarizes the changes that have occurred since 2012:

2012	2017
<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 points Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (Part 2)</li> <li>• 40 points Practice Improvement (Part 4)</li> <li>• 20 additional points from either category</li> <li>• Pass the MOC exam in a secure testing center once every 10 years</li> </ul>	<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 points Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (Part 2)</li> <li>• 40 points Practice Improvement (Part 4)</li> <li>• 20 additional points from either category</li> <li>• (In PILOT) – Participate in MOCA-Peds quarterly web-based assessment with a passing score for three out of four years OR pass the MOC exam at a secure testing center every 5 years</li> </ul>
<p>Resources for Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABP-provided activities</li> <li>• AAP PREP</li> <li>• Limited other choices</li> </ul>	<p>Resources for Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABP-provided activities</li> <li>• Online activities from AAP and other organizations</li> <li>• More than 1000 qualifying CME activities registered through ACCME that earn MOC credit automatically upon successful completion</li> </ul>
<p>Resources for Quality Improvement Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABP PIMs</li> <li>• AAP EQIPP</li> <li>• Web-based activities from other organizations</li> <li>• AAP Quality Improvement Innovation Networks (QuIIN)</li> <li>• AAP's Chapter Alliance for Quality Improvement (CAQI), specifically the Chapter Quality Network (CQN)</li> <li>• Small number of collaborative networks</li> </ul>	<p>Resources for Quality Improvement Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABP PIMs</li> <li>• AAP EQIPP</li> <li>• AAP Pedialink QI</li> <li>• Web-based activities from other organizations</li> <li>• Collaborative networks</li> <li>• Application process for practice improvement projects undertaken by solo or small groups of pediatricians. Guidance is available to help structure the project to be eligible for MOC credit</li> <li>• Similar application process for larger</li> </ul>

	<p>projects often sponsored by organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAP Quality Improvement Innovation Networks (QIIN)</li> <li>• AAP’s Chapter Alliance for Quality Improvement (CAQI), specifically the Chapter Quality Network (CQN)</li> <li>• Growing number of institutions (including the AAP) who sponsor their own portfolio of MOC-eligible quality improvement activities</li> <li>• Part 4 credit offered to program directors, faculty, residents and fellows who engage in quality improvement to address areas that were identified during the program’s annual program evaluation or the self-study</li> <li>• Institutional leaders, including department chairs, chief quality officers or directors of public health departments, who develop and lead substantial health care quality initiatives in an organization, may apply for Part 4 credit</li> <li>• Residents can “bank” MOC points they earn during training</li> </ul>
<p>Information available on the website and through generalized emails timed to coincide with yearly deadlines</p>	<p>Redesigned website with improved access to information. Redesigned landing page when pediatricians log into their own portfolio. Improved search function. MOCAM site for more in-depth information and applications for available activities. Personalized email with addressee’s personal progress toward requirements. Social media presence, including ABP Blog. Video guides/instructions. Use of ABP logo encouraged to recognize certified pediatricians.</p>
<p>Pay all fees up front at the time of enrollment in a 5-year MOC cycle</p>	<p>Choose to pay all fees at the beginning of an MOC cycle, or choose a prorated annual payment option, beginning in 2018</p>