



American Board  
of Internal Medicine®

*ABIM Now Offers Extended  
Customer Service Hours*

Maintenance of Certification

# **A GUIDE FOR INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGISTS**



## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION: THE BASICS

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Interventional cardiologists renew their board certification through the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. The MOC program is designed to reflect what physicians do in practice, and there are many options available to interventional cardiologists to meet their MOC requirements.

The ABIM MOC program requirements for interventional cardiologists include:

- ✓ Hold current, valid ABIM certification in Cardiovascular Disease to renew certification in Interventional Cardiology. To learn more, visit [www.abim.org/moc-policies](http://www.abim.org/moc-policies).
- ✓ Schedule, take and pass the secure ABIM Interventional Cardiology Maintenance of Certification Examination.
- ✓ Earn 100 points in Self-Evaluation of Medical Knowledge and Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance. You are required to earn a minimum of 20 points of medical knowledge and 20 points of practice performance. The remaining 60 points may be from either medical knowledge, practice performance or both. Note: The points you earn are valid during your participation in MOC and can be applied to the renewal of more than one certification (e.g., Interventional Cardiology and Cardiovascular Disease) you are maintaining within that time frame.
- ✓ Meet the procedural requirements: In addition to being licensed and in good standing, interventional cardiologists must submit a Form Attesting Interventional Cardiology Practice, verifying their performance as primary operator, co-operator or supervisor of 150 percutaneous coronary interventional (PCI) cases in the two years prior to expiration of their certificate. Under exceptional cases, diplomates who are unable to fulfill the 150-procedure requirement may complete a procedural log of 25 consecutive PCI cases, including outcomes, in which they served as primary operator during the two years prior to expiration of their certification.

Begin now and take advantage of the many options ABIM offers to complete your MOC requirements. Once enrolled, you can earn self-evaluation points at any time and complete as many modules as you wish.

**Important: enrolling in MOC does not schedule your seat for your exam.** After you enroll, and if you are in the sixth year of your current certification, you will need to schedule your exam appointment with your test vendor. See below for more information.

For practical advice about completing MOC, visit [www.abim.org/advice](http://www.abim.org/advice) to learn topical insights from fellow ABIM Board Certified physicians.

## THE SECURE EXAM

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The ABIM Interventional Cardiology Maintenance of Certification Examination is designed to evaluate the extent of your knowledge and clinical judgment in the areas in which you should demonstrate a high level of competence. Exam questions are developed by a team of interventional cardiology specialists in practice and in academic medicine. During the exam, you will be asked to demonstrate your mastery in the broad domain of interventional cardiology and the diagnosis and treatment of both common and rare conditions that have important consequences for patients. The computer-based examination is offered twice a year – in spring and fall – at Pearson VUE test centers, located worldwide.

### How to Schedule Your Exam

Scheduling your exam is a three step process:

- 1) enroll in MOC
- 2) find exam dates at [www.abim.org/icardexam](http://www.abim.org/icardexam)
- 3) schedule your exam date and location with Pearson VUE at [www.pearsonvue.com/abim](http://www.pearsonvue.com/abim) or [1-800-601-3549](tel:1-800-601-3549) during the following exam scheduling periods:

- Spring MOC Exams - December 1 through February 28
- Fall MOC Exams - May 1 through August 15

## SELF-EVALUATION OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

ABIM medical knowledge modules provide evidence of engagement in periodic self-assessment to guide continuing learning. Each module allows you to perform a diagnostic self-assessment of your strengths and weaknesses in important aspects of the knowledge base underlying each certification area.

- Most ABIM medical knowledge modules are worth 10 points each.
- Each module contains a series of multiple-choice questions.
- Select modules that fit your self-assessment goals.
- Societies also offer learning sessions to assist in completing medical knowledge modules with your peers. Visit [www.abim.org/ls](http://www.abim.org/ls) for upcoming sessions.

### Medical Knowledge Options for Interventional Cardiologists

- A new Annual Update is released every year for both Interventional Cardiology and Cardiovascular Disease (10 points each), and there are always three modules available in each area.
- Care for the Underserved Module (10 points)
- Point-of-Care Clinical Question Module (20 points)
- Interventional Cardiology Simulations (20 points) – cases that mirror what a physician would typically face in daily practice. The simulations are completed on-site at one of Medical Simulation Corporation's SimSuite® education centers, and are also offered at several interventional cardiology meetings and conferences throughout the year.
- CathSAP 3 Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Cardiology Self-Assessment Program (40 points) – must be ordered through the American College of Cardiology (ACC).

Additional medical knowledge options can be found at [www.abim.org/mk](http://www.abim.org/mk)

## SELF-EVALUATION OF PRACTICE PERFORMANCE

Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance provides you with various pathways to apply quality measurement to your practice and then use the resulting data to improve care. These include ABIM PIMs Practice Improvement Modules®, the Essentials of Quality Improvement module for clinically inactive physicians, and the ABIM-Approved Quality Improvement (AQI) pathway.

- PIMs are worth 20 or 40 points each, depending on the PIM chosen.
- Visit [www.abim.org/pimdemo](http://www.abim.org/pimdemo) for PIM tutorials.
- AQI is worth 20 points. Visit [www.abim.org/aqi](http://www.abim.org/aqi) for more information.
- Earn rewards and recognition from several major health plans for completion of PIMs.

### Practice Performance Options for Interventional Cardiologists

- Clinical Supervision (20 points)
- Communication – Subspecialists (20 points)
- Communication with Referring Physicians (20 points)
- Completed Project (20 points) for: physicians who have completed a QI project within the past 24 months using pre-approved measure sets from the ABIM Measures Library.
- Hypertension (40 points)
- Preventive Cardiology (40 points)
- Self-Directed (20 points) for: physicians who are completing a QI project using measure sets from the ABIM Measures Library and data provided by a variety of sources including the American College of Cardiology: National Cardiovascular Data Registry (AAC-NCDR).
- You can also earn 20 points of Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance credit through ABIM's Approved Quality Improvement (AQI) program. If you serve as a leader or member of a team in an approved program, you may attest to your participation in this activity for practice performance credit. Visit [www.abim.org/aqi](http://www.abim.org/aqi) for a complete list of AQI programs.

Additional practice performance options can be found at [www.abim.org/pp](http://www.abim.org/pp).  
Select the "Practice Performance Selector Tool" for details.

## HOW DO I ENROLL IN MOC?

- Go to the Physician Login, located on the home page of ABIM's website, [www.abim.org](http://www.abim.org), and enter your ABIM ID and your password.
- If you have never logged on to your home page before, the default password is your six-digit date of birth (MMDDYY).
- On your personal home page, under "My Maintenance of Certification Program," click on "Enroll in Maintenance of Certification Program" and follow the instructions.
- Complete a practice characteristics survey and update your contact information.
- Save the enrollment confirmation page you receive for your records.

### WHAT ARE THE REWARDS?

Your participation in MOC:

- Stands as a marker of professionalism to both peers and patients
- Helps you to stay current with the growth of information relevant to your medical practice
- Provides an opportunity to evaluate your knowledge and skills, receive valuable feedback on your practice and identify and rectify gaps in care
- Offers an opportunity to earn CME credit
- Helps you meet some hospitals' and medical groups' privileging requirements
- Provides opportunity for special recognition in certain health plan provider directories and inclusion in quality-tiered networks
- Offers reciprocal credit for dual-boarded diplomates. Visit [www.abim.org/dualboard](http://www.abim.org/dualboard) to learn more.

Have questions? Call the ABIM Customer Service Department at [1-800-441-ABIM](tel:1-800-441-ABIM) or e-mail them at [request@abim.org](mailto:request@abim.org). **ABIM Customer Service has expanded its hours of operation to better serve you:** Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Additional hours may be available during exam scheduling periods. Please visit [www.abim.org](http://www.abim.org) for the most up-to-date Customer Service schedule.

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