

Maintenance of Certification

A GUIDE FOR RHEUMATOLOGISTS



MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION: THE BASICS

Rheumatologists 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 rheumatologists to meet their MOC requirements.

The ABIM MOC program requirements for rheumatologists include:

- ✓ Schedule, take and pass the secure ABIM Rheumatology 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. The points you earn are valid during your participation in MOC and can be applied to all certifications you are maintaining within that time frame.
- ✓ Be licensed and in good standing.

Begin now and take advantage of the many options ABIM offers to complete your MOC requirements. Once enrolled, you can complete as many modules as you wish. You can earn self-evaluation points at any time, and beginning in the sixth year of your current certification, you can schedule your exam appointment.

For practical advice about completing MOC, visit www.abim.org/advice to learn topical insights from fellow ABIM Board Certified physicians.

Note: You do not have to maintain your certification in Internal Medicine to recertify in Rheumatology. To learn more, visit www.abim.org/moc-policies.

THE SECURE EXAM

The ABIM Rheumatology 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 rheumatology specialists in practice and in academic medicine. During the exam, you will be asked to demonstrate your mastery in the broad domain of rheumatology 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. Please visit www.abim.org/rheumexam to find exam dates. Important: You must be enrolled in MOC in order to schedule your exam.

Once enrolled in the MOC program, you can choose an exam location and schedule an appointment by contacting Pearson VUE at 1-800-601-3549 or visiting www.pearsonvue.com/abim, selecting "Schedule a Test" in the right-hand column and following the instructions, during the following registration 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 for upcoming sessions.

Medical Knowledge Options for Rheumatologists

- A new Annual Update in Rheumatology (10 points each) is released every year, and there are always three modules available.
- Care for the Underserved Module (10 points)
- Point-of-Care Clinical Question Module (20 points)
- The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) CARE Program (2009, 2010 and 2011, 30 points each) – must be ordered through ACR.

Additional medical knowledge options can be found at 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 for PIM tutorials.
- AQI is worth 20 points. Visit www.abim.org/aqi for more information.
- Earn rewards and recognition from several major health plans for completion of PIMs.

Practice Performance Options for Rheumatologists

- 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.
- Osteoporosis (20 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.
- 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 for a complete list of AQI programs.

Additional practice performance options can be found at 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, 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 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 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. 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 for the most up-to-date Customer Service schedule.

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