American Board of Dermatology
FAQ's about MOC for Pediatric Dermatologists

**We understand that the various possible scenarios involved in your recertification may be complex and may not neatly fit one of the FAQ’s below. Feel free to contact the ABD office at 313-874-1088 if you have further questions.**

I. The October Pediatric Dermatology Subspecialty examination is for those individuals who are applying for initial subspecialty certification in Pediatric Dermatology. This examination is given every other year (200 questions, cost $1600, deadline for applications: June 1).

II. The March/April MOC/Recertification Pediatric Dermatology Subspecialty examination is given every year and is for all individuals previously certified in the October examination as outlined below:

For diplomats with lifetime dermatology certification who took and passed the October 2004 Pediatric Dermatology subspecialty examination, you did not enter MOC because there was no MOC program at that time. Your 2014 March/April examination will consist of:
- 100 questions (50 for Ped Derm 1 and 50 for Ped Derm 2), cost $450, deadline for applications: November 1.
- You will automatically be enrolled in MOC in January 2015 after passing this examination, which will require both primary dermatology and pediatric dermatology recertification (MOC) within the subsequent 10 years (before Jan. 2025).

For diplomats with time-limited dermatology certification, NOT already in MOC, who took and passed the October 2004 Pediatric Dermatology subspecialty examination, you did not enter MOC in 2004 because there was no MOC program at that time. However, you have a time-limited dermatology certificate and need to recertify. Your 2014 March/April examination will consist of:
- 200 questions (100 General Dermatology, 50 for Ped Derm 1 and 50 for Ped Derm 2), cost $1,000, deadline for applications: November 1.
- You will automatically be enrolled in MOC in January 2015 after passing this examination, which requires both primary dermatology and pediatric dermatology recertification within the subsequent 10 years.

For diplomats with time-limited dermatology certification, already participating in MOC, who took and passed the October 2004 Pediatric Dermatology subspecialty examination, your 2014 March/April Pediatric Dermatology examination will consist of:
- 100 questions (50 for Ped Derm 1 and 50 for Ped Derm 2), a fee of $100.00, deadline for applications: November 1.
- Depending on where you are in your Dermatology MOC cycle, you may wish to consider fulfilling the examination requirement for Dermatology MOC and Pediatric Dermatology recertification at the same time. Please contact the ABD office for assistance.

For diplomats who took and passed the October 2006 (or thereafter) Pediatric Dermatology subspecialty examination, you are already in the MOC process and there is a fee of $100.00 for the MOC exam. If you are taking the MOC examination in 2014, the 2014 March/April examination will consist of:
- 200 questions (100 General Dermatology, 50 Pediatric Dermatology 1, and 50 Pediatric Dermatology 2), no fee, deadline for applications: November 1.
OVERVIEW OF ABD CERTIFICATION AND EXAMINATIONS

LIFETIME AND TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATES
Certification in DERMATOLOGY prior to 1991 is LIFETIME. Those who hold a lifetime Dermatology certificate do not have to participate in MOC in order to retain certification in the primary specialty of dermatology. Certification in DERMATOLOGY from 1991 forward is TIME-LIMITED.

ALL subspecialty certification in PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY is TIME-LIMITED. The first pediatric dermatology subspecialty certification was offered after the transition from lifetime to time-limited certification.

Diplomates who simultaneously hold a LIFETIME certificate in Dermatology and a TIME-LIMITED certificate in Pediatric Dermatology who fail to complete the requirements to maintain the time-limited Pediatric Dermatology certification will no longer be certified in Pediatric Dermatology but will retain certification in Dermatology.

THE TWO PROGRAMS FOR TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATES
The program for retaining certification for time-limited certificates issued between 1991 and 2005 is the RECERTIFICATION program. The recertification cycle is 10 years. The major requirements for Recertification occur within the last 3 years of the 10-year cycle and consist primarily of continuing medical education and a Recertification exam. There is not a yearly fee for the Recertification program, but there is a fee for the Recertification examination. Diplomates currently in the Recertification program transition to MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION upon completion of the 10-year Recertification cycle.

For time-limited certificates issued in 2006 and later, the program for retaining certification is a more continuous program entitled MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC), a program overseen by the American Board of Medical Specialties and in which all ABMS member Board participate. There is a yearly fee for MOC, but there is not a separate fee for the MOC exam. The MOC exam for diplomates in MOC who wish to maintain certification in the subspecialty of pediatric dermatology consists of the general dermatology module, pediatric dermatology 1, and pediatric dermatology 2. For diplomates in the MOC program, the examination must include the general dermatology module.

By the year 2016, all time-limited certificates issued under the program of Recertification will have expired. At that time, all diplomates with time-limited certificates will be in the MOC program.

1. If I took the Pediatric Dermatology Board examination in 2004 and plan to recertify, WHEN is the exam and do I need to enroll in MOC?

The 2014 exam will be administered from March 27 to April 15, giving a window that provides flexibility. As of 2006, all dermatologists taking and passing a Board examination automatically are enrolled in MOC. Taking this 2014 MOC pediatric dermatology examination automatically enrolls you in MOC, a 10 year process that includes an annual fee, annual recording of CME information and licensure, self-assessment exercises, peer and patient surveys, quality improvement exercises, and the maintenance of certification examination. If you took the pediatric dermatology exam in 2004 and have life-time certification, you need only take and pass the pediatric dermatology components in 2014 but you will automatically be enrolled in the MOC examination (see #4 below).
2. If I took the Pediatric Dermatology Board exam in 2004 and am planning to recertify from March 27 to April 15, 2014, how many questions are on the examination, what is the cost, and what is the deadline to register?

There are 100 questions for the Pediatric Dermatology Board examination - (50 for Ped Derm 1 and 50 for Ped Derm 2). The cost is $450.00 and the deadline for registration is November 1, 2013.

3. I have a time-limited certification in Dermatology that expires in 2014 or 2015. I am in the Dermatology Recertification program and am due to take the examination. I am not yet enrolled in the MOC program. Can I take both the general dermatology module and the pediatric dermatology modules at the same time?

Yes, in fact candidates are strongly encouraged to take both examinations at the same time, which will be cost-saving and question-saving. By taking both examinations at the same time (in 2014), the cost is only $1,000.00; you would take 100 general dermatology questions, 50 Ped Derm 1 questions, and 50 Ped Derm 2 questions. By contrast, if you took the dermatology recertification and the pediatric dermatology recertification exams in different years, the total cost would be $1350 ($900 for dermatology in one year and $450 for pediatric dermatology in another year) and you would have to take 4 modules instead of 3 (general dermatology + subspecialty module of your choice for the dermatology exam; pediatric dermatology 1 and 2 for the pediatric dermatology subspecialty exam).

4. I have life-time dermatology certification, but took my pediatric dermatology boards in 2006. I plan to recertify. When do I need to take the general dermatology module of the examination. What is that about? Is my life-time certification in general dermatology of no value?

When you take and pass the 2014 pediatric dermatology boards, you will automatically be enrolled in MOC starting in 2015. Although you do not need to take the general dermatology examination until 2024, it is the expectation as part of MOC that - after 10 years of enrollment in MOC - the general dermatology MOC examination is required. At that time you must take all three portions of the examination to stay in MOC (including in order to renew your pediatric dermatology certification). The MOC examination can be taken any time in years 3 through 10 of your ten-year cycle, but must be successfully passed by year 10. If you decide not to participate in MOC, your lifetime certification in Dermatology will continue to be valid. However, you must complete the MOC 10-year cycle process in order to continue to hold certification in Pediatric Dermatology.

5. I have life-time dermatology certification, but did not take my pediatric dermatology boards until 2006. I plan to recertify. When do I need to take the general dermatology module of the MOC examination?

Because those who took the pediatric dermatology boards in 2006 were enrolled in MOC automatically at that time (but not those in 2004), the 10 year cycle for this group is completed in 2016 – and all three portions of the dermatology recertification examination (MOC) will be required, even for life-time certified dermatologists. Your lifetime certificate cannot be revoked. If you decide not to proceed with subspecialty recertification, there is no need to do anything else. If, however, you do not complete the MOC process, your subspecialty pediatric dermatology will no longer be valid.

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