



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Continuing Certification (CC)/MOC Part III Pilot Project Update

Pilot Project Description

1. What is the CC/MOC Part III Pilot Project?

ABPN announced in September 2017 that it would begin to offer a [new journal article-based assessment system](#) as an optional alternative to the current ABPN secure, proctored CC/MOC Part III Examination.

2. Must diplomates participating in the Pilot Project still participate in the other elements of the CC/MOC program?

Yes. All other CC/MOC program requirements (CME, Self-Assessment, and PIP) remain the same and must continue to be met by eligible Pilot Project participants. Those in CC/MOC must continue to pay the annual fee. A maximum of 16 Self-Assessment CME credits may be waived for successful completion of the MOC Part III Pilot Project.

Note that ABPN is not a CME provider. While non-CME Self-Assessment waiver options contribute to the Self-Assessment requirement of the ABPN MOC Program, they are NOT recognized by state medical licensing boards as Category-1 CME credits.

3. What is the journal article-based assessment option?

ABPN diplomates who are eligible and who volunteer for the Pilot Project will be required to read a minimum of 30 articles but no more than 40 articles and answer 4 out of 5 questions correctly on the first attempt on 30 journal article mini-exams. The questions will be administered in an online, open-book format accessed via the internet from a personal computer.

4. What are the computer system or platform requirements for the MOC Part III Pilot Project?

The following browsers are recommended for PC users: Chrome 65+, Firefox 59+ or IE Edge. The following browsers are recommended for Mac users: Chrome 65+ or Safari 11.

5. Which specialties and subspecialties are included in the Pilot Project?

The Pilot Project will be offered as an alternative to single CC/MOC examinations in Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP), Neurology, and Child Neurology.

CAP is the only subspecialty offered during the Pilot Project. All other subspecialty examinations will be delivered in the current CC/MOC examination format during the Pilot Project. There will be no combination CC/MOC examination alternatives available during the Pilot Project. The ABPN will work to make all its subspecialties available as quickly as possible upon successful completion of the Pilot Project.

6. Can a diplomate who is double-boarded in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry satisfy the traditional MOC examination requirement for both certificates during the Pilot Project?

Yes, but the diplomate must meet the Pilot requirements for each certificate. This means a diplomate would need to read and answer five multiple-choice questions on at least 30 but no more than 40 peer-selected and ABPN approved journal articles in Psychiatry and also in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to satisfy the traditional examination requirement for both certificates.

7. How long is the CC/MOC Part III Pilot Project?

The Pilot Project will run for three years, from 2019-2021. The length of time (eligibility period) for a diplomate to complete the Pilot Project varies by the expiration date of the diplomate's certificate or by their current block and status in the CC/ MOC Program.

8. How will the journal article-based assessment option be administered?

It will be administered in an online, open-book format. Mini-exams related to journal articles will be accessible via the internet from a personal computer.

9. When will the CC/MOC Part III Pilot Project begin?

The list of journal articles will be available in October 2018 for reference and will also be posted on our website and in the Physician Folios 'Part III Pilot' section. On January 15, 2019 the examination questions related to each journal article will be available for review and completion.

10. What happens if the CC/MOC Part III Pilot Project becomes a permanent option in 2022?

If the Pilot becomes a permanent option in 2022, diplomates who continue with the journal article-based assessment option will be expected to read a set number of articles every three years on an ongoing basis. The ABPN will develop a transition plan for those who have completed the Pilot and for all diplomates interested in participating in the new assessment option in Psychiatry, Neurology, Child Neurology or Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. We anticipate developing more journal assessment subspecialty options in 2022.

The results of the Pilot must be reviewed and approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties in order for it to become a permanent alternative for the traditional ABPN secured, proctored CC/MOC examination (Part III of MOC).

Pilot Project Eligibility

11. Which diplomates will be eligible to join the Pilot Project?

- A. Diplomates whose third Continuing Certification/MOC (CC/MOC) block begins in 2019, 2020, or 2021 (these diplomates would have passed an Initial Certification or CC/MOC examination in 2012-2014) and are currently meeting CC/MOC requirements.
 - Eligibility Period: Diplomates in this group must successfully complete 30 journal article mini-exams and continue to meet all other CC/MOC Program requirements (CME, SA, PIP) during the Pilot Project from 2019-2021.
- B. Diplomates in the 10-Year MOC Program who need to take an MOC examination in 2019, 2020, or 2021 (these diplomates will have a certificate expiring in 2019-2021).
 - Eligibility Period: Diplomates in this group must successfully complete 30 journal article mini-exams by December 15 of their certificate expiration year. All other MOC Program requirements (CME, SA, PIP) must be attested to by September 1 of their certificate expiration year.

12. Are diplomates with lapsed certificates eligible to participate in the Pilot Project?

Lapsed certificate holders and lifetime certificate holders will not be eligible for the Pilot Project. These diplomates must take the 10-Year MOC examination and meet CC/MOC activity requirements to enter the CC/MOC Program.

13. How will you know if you are eligible for the Pilot Project?

ABPN sent an email invitation to all eligible Pilot Project participants in mid-December 2017. Enrollment instructions with deadlines were emailed to eligible diplomates in March 2018. Enrollment is still available depending on your certificate expiration date. If you received a Pilot Project invitation and still want to enroll, please see the 'Part III Pilot' section in your ABPN Physician Folios account.

14. Can a diplomate elect to take the 10-year MOC examination if they prefer it over the Pilot Project?

Yes. The Pilot Project is OPTIONAL. Eligible diplomates may still choose to take the 10-Year MOC examination instead of participating in the Pilot Project.

15. What if you are not in the eligible group of diplomates for Pilot Project participation?

Diplomates who took a Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Neurology, or Child Neurology Initial Certification or CC/MOC examination in 2015-2018 are in the early stages of the CC/MOC Program during the Pilot Project. These diplomates will not be eligible for the Pilot Project. The ABPN will develop a plan to transition these diplomates into this program in 2022 if the Pilot Project is approved in 2021 by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) as a permanent alternative to the secure CC/MOC examination. This means that, if the Pilot Project is approved by the ABMS, all current Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Neurology, and Child Neurology diplomates in good standing in the ABPN CC/MOC Program will have the option of NOT taking the traditional 10-year MOC examination.

16. Do diplomates still have to complete CC/MOC activities (CME, Self-Assessment, PIP) during the Pilot Project?

Yes. All diplomates, including Pilot Project participants, must meet all CC/MOC Program requirements to be reported as ‘Certified – Meeting CC/MOC Requirements’.

17. What will happen if a diplomate is unsuccessful or does not complete the Pilot Project?

Diplomates are then required to pass the traditional 10-Year CC/MOC examination to remain board certified. Diplomates will be allowed two consecutive attempts at the traditional 10-Year CC/MOC examination if he/she fails or does not complete the Pilot Project in order to remain certified. The first examination will be at no additional cost; however, there will be the standard re-examination fee if a second examination is needed.

Pilot Project Design

18. How many questions will be in the journal article-based assessment and how will it be scored?

- Diplomates must answer 5 questions (mini-exam) associated with each journal article at any time during the Pilot Project in an online, open-book format.
- During the eligibility period of the Pilot Project, those diplomates who answer at least 4 out of 5 questions correctly on the first attempt will have successfully completed one mini-exam.
- Diplomates who successfully complete 30 article readings and mini-exams will not be required to complete the Part III CC/MOC examination.
- Diplomates will receive immediate feedback after completing the mini-exam related to an article.
- Diplomates can select articles from a library of approved articles.
- For a given article, once a mini-exam has been started, it must be completed. Only one mini-exam can be open at a time during the Pilot Project eligibility period. A diplomate must submit the answers of a completed mini-exam before opening the next mini-exam. A mini-exam can be answered during multiple sittings.
- Diplomates can complete their 30 articles and mini-exams at any time during their approved Pilot Project eligibility period.

19. How many articles must be read for successful completion of the pilot?

30 out of 40 journal article mini-exams must be successfully completed in order for a diplomate to meet the MOC Part III examination requirement. A diplomate must read a minimum of 30 articles but no more than 40 articles and answer 4 out of 5 questions correctly on the first attempt on 30 journal article mini-exams.

If you score 5 out of 5 questions correctly on 29 article mini-exams, you still must successfully complete a 30th article with 4 out of 5 questions answered correctly on the first attempt to complete the Pilot.

20. Who chooses the journal articles and writes the questions for the journal-based assessment option?

The Pilot Project Test Writing Committees include nominated members from the ABPN and from professional societies (APA, AACAP, AAN, and CNS). The Committees develop a content outline, select journal articles relevant to clinical practice, and write questions related to those articles. The articles reflect topics on the content outline.

21. What are the fees for the Pilot Project?

The usual CC/MOC fee structure will be in place for Pilot Project participants. Specifically, those transitioning from 10-year MOC into CC/MOC will be required to pay a fee equal to the amount for the 10-year CC/MOC examination. Those currently in CC/MOC will have the option to use any previously paid annual fees as credit towards the cost of the Pilot recertification. If a diplomate is double boarded in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, he/she is required to pay a fee equal to the combined CC/MOC examination fee, less any annual fee credits, and also must complete the Pilot Project design for each certificate. Once the Pilot becomes permanent, the annual fee will cover the participation in the article-based assessment for one certification.

22. Will ABPN provide access to the journal articles?

No. While the ABPN will provide links on its website to the journal articles chosen for the Pilot Project, those journal articles may or may not have a fee associated with them. Diplomates may choose to contact their professional associations, medical schools, or local libraries to determine if the articles are available at low or reduced cost as part of their affiliation or appointment.

23. Can there be journal clubs to discuss the articles used in the Pilot Project?

Yes, for article discussion purposes only, a journal club is allowed. However, sharing of mini-exam questions and answers is strictly prohibited by the ABPN and would be considered irregular behavior according to the ABPN's policies.

Please verify and update your contact information in your ABPN Physician Folios account at www.abpn.com/folios.

Pilot Project Scoring

24. What is the policy on question reviews and revisions?

It is the ABPN's long-standing policy that any comment left by an examinee regarding the questions on our examinations needs to be reviewed individually and carefully. Most often, the review process will decide that the question should remain as is. In these cases, the ABPN does not inform the examinee who commented on that item. However, if after thorough review and rigorous deliberation our committee of content experts for that examination determines that a question is indeed flawed, we will modify the question and rescore the exam that delivered the flawed question.

When rescoring takes place, we can assure you that, if your initial score on the question was incorrect, your score on that question will then be corrected to reflect the modification. Every examinee whose initial score was negatively affected by the flawed item will receive an email from the ABPN that notifies him or her about the rescoring results.

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