



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

ABPN Responds to Diplomate Questions about the Pilot Project

1. Will successful completion of the Pilot Project result in a 10-year board recertification or a 3-year board recertification?

Eligible participants who successfully complete the Pilot Project will not need to take their regularly scheduled 10-year MOC examination. If the Pilot Project is ultimately approved by the ABMS as a permanent alternative to the 10-year MOC examination in 2022, Pilot participants will need to complete a set number of articles every 3 years if they choose to stay in the article-based assessment track.

All other MOC requirements must continue to be met during and after the Pilot Project (CME, Self-Assessment, and PIP).

2. Are diplomates obligated to remain on the article-based assessment track if they complete the Pilot Project?

Provided that the ABPN is given permission by the ABMS to continue to offer an article-based alternative to the 10-year MOC examination after the Pilot Project is over, diplomates will be free to choose which option they want to complete for the MOC Part III requirement.

3. Does the ABPN have a commitment to provide as many no-cost or free articles as possible?

Most of the articles are free to everyone and/or to participants who are members of the professional associations collaborating with the ABPN on the Pilot Project (e.g., AACAP, AAN, APA, and CNS). The ABPN is contacting journal publishers to discuss waiving their fees for Pilot Project participants. Other than the cost that may be associated with some articles, there will be no additional fees associated with the Pilot Project. The ABPN has determined that Pilot Project participants will continue to pay their regular MOC fees.

4. Will the ABPN consider re-assessing the number of articles required for combined examination applicants in the future?

During the Pilot Project, the ABPN has decided to require participants to complete separate article-based processes for each recertification. If the ABPN is given permission by the ABMS to continue to offer an article-based alternative to the 10-year MOC examination after the completion of the Pilot Project, then some combined options may be offered, although the exact nature of such options have yet to be established. Diplomates with multiple certificates will need to determine for themselves if they are best served by participating in the Pilot Project or by completing the regular combined examinations.

5. What happens to the diplomates who obtain successful completion of the Pilot Project if it is ultimately not continued?

If the Pilot Project is not approved by the ABMS as an alternative to the 10-year MOC examination or if the ABPN decides not to continue to offer it as an option, those diplomates who have successfully completed the Pilot Project will be considered to have passed their 10-year MOC examination and will return to their regular MOC examination schedule.

6. Will there be any continuing medical education (CME) credits offered for the completion of the Pilot Project?

The ABPN will waive 16 Self-Assessment CME credits for successful participation in the Pilot Project. The ABPN is not authorized to award CME credit, but it is exploring the conditions under which its collaborating professional associations might be willing to do so.

7. Is the ABPN willing to provide diplomates with a letter upon successful completion of the Pilot Project so that diplomates may reach out to the American Medical Association (AMA) to pursue CME credits?

The ABPN will be happy to provide individuals with a letter indicating that they have completed the Pilot Project.

8. Can diplomates have access to sample questions that are indicative of actual Pilot Project assessment questions prior to the January 2019 start date?

Yes, ABPN will provide sample questions on our website before the January 2019 start date.

9. Some of the enrolled diplomates in the Pilot Project are not due to complete recertification until 2022-2024. If these diplomates complete the Pilot Project in 2021, would it result in a reset of their recertification “clock”? For example, would their MOC Part III recertification exam be due in 2031, instead of 2032-2034?

No, the ABPN has determined that diplomates who successfully complete the Pilot Project early WILL NOT have their MOC Part III requirement clocks reset to the year they are required to finish the Pilot Project (2021). Successful completion of the Pilot will take the place of the recertification exams due in 2022-2024.

Part III is only one component of MOC. All other requirements such as CME credits, Self-Assessment activities, and PIP activities must be met on an ongoing basis to maintain certification.

10. What are the costs associated with the Pilot Project versus the costs associated with the recertification examination?

Other than the fees that might be associated with specific articles, the cost of participating in the Pilot Project is the same as what a diplomate would have paid under the 10-year MOC examination process.

11. Has the ABPN considered a reduced rate option for applicants who complete the Pilot Project?

The ABPN has determined that diplomates who participate in the Pilot Project will pay their normal MOC fees.

12. Has the ABPN addressed the concern about the selection of articles with regards to potential conflicts of interest?

All Pilot Project articles were selected from journals indexed in Medline. All articles were selected by Pilot Project committees consisting of a majority of members who were nominated by collaborating professional associations. All articles were nominated, reviewed, and selected by the Pilot Project committees based solely upon their quality, their relevance to a particular area on a content outline, and their relevance to clinical practice.

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