

BULLETIN

for 2008

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Voluntary Recertification

Certificate Renewal



The American Board of
Obstetrics & Gynecology
The Vineyard Centre
2915 Vine Street
Dallas, TX 75204

First in Women's Health

**The American Board of
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.**

This Bulletin, issued in November, 2007,
represents the official statement of the
requirements in effect for the 2008 examinations.

Rev. 11/2007

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All communications should be addressed to:

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A WORD OF CAUTION

All correspondence with the Board should be sent by a service that has tracking capability (e.g. FedEx, UPS). This will allow you to verify the receipt of correspondence, applications and fees sent to ABOG.

Deadlines set by ABOG are based on RECEIPT of the information in the Board office, not the date of shipping.

All bulletins can be downloaded from the ABOG web site: www.abog.org

**The American Board
of
Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Inc.
Dallas, Texas**

NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS
AND GYNECOLOGY

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

AMERICAN GYNECOLOGICAL AND OBSTETRICAL
SOCIETY

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF
GYNECOLOGY AND OBSTETRICS



**American
Board of
Obstetrics &
Gynecology**

This Board is a founding member of, and holds active membership in, the American Board of Medical Specialities. This Board also functions in cooperation with, the Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics, and the Council on Resident Education for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Inc.

ORGANIZATION

Beginning in 1986, The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology began issuing 10-year time-limited certificates in obstetrics and gynecology. The following year, 10-year, time-limited certificates were issued in the subspecialties of maternal-fetal medicine, reproductive endocrinology and infertility and gynecologic oncology. Diplomates who received their certificates in ob/gyn prior to 1986, or in a subspecialty prior to 1987, hold non-expiring certificates. Thus, beginning in 1996, there would be diplomates of the Board who would be required to renew their certification. It was decided that a diplomate who held an expiring certificate, would be allowed to sit for the Maintenance of Certification examination two years prior to the date of expiration of the original certificate.

NEW TIME LIMIT FOR CERTIFICATES

Beginning in 2001, all new certificates and maintenance of certification certificates issued by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology are SIX years in duration.

2008 MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC)

The four components of the MOC program are discussed in the following sections. Diplomates with non-time-limited certificates may participate voluntarily and will NOT lose their certification if they discontinue the process.

A DIPLOMATE MUST FIRST REGISTER/APPLY WITH ABOG-MOC BEFORE APPLYING TO THE ACOG FOR PART IV.

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of the Board include:

"To arrange and conduct examinations and/or other procedures to test the qualifications of voluntary candidates for certification and recertification by this Corporation. The criteria for certification and

recertification shall be applied equally to all candidates regardless of sex, race, color or national origin.

To issue certificates or any other evidences of professional knowledge to eligible physicians whom this Corporation considers to have demonstrated special knowledge and professional qualifications relating to Obstetrics and Gynecology, which certificates or any other evidences of professional knowledge may, at the discretion of this Corporation, be valid only for a limited period of time.

To determine from time to time whether physicians who have been issued certificates or other evidences of professional knowledge have continued to maintain their professional qualifications and to issue Certificates for Recertification, MOC or other evidences of professional knowledge to those physicians who successfully demonstrate continued maintenance of such qualifications."

DEFINITIONS

Obstetricians-Gynecologists are physicians who, by virtue of satisfactory completion of a defined course of graduate medical education and appropriate certification, possess special knowledge, skills and professional capability in the medical and surgical care of the female reproductive system and associated disorders, such that it distinguishes them from other physicians and enables them to serve as consultants to other physicians and as primary physicians for women.

Over the years of practice, each obstetrician-gynecologist builds upon this broad base of knowledge and skills and may develop a unique type of practice and changing professional focus. Such diversity contributes to high quality health care for women.

Certification by The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology attests to the Diplomates professional colleagues and to the public that the Diplomate possesses special knowledge and professional capability. Each certificate granted or issued does not of itself confer or purport to confer upon any person any degree or legal qualifications,

privileges or license to practice obstetrics and/or gynecology, nor does the Board intend in any way to interfere with or limit the professional activities of any duly licensed physician who is not certified by this Board. The privileges granted physicians in the practice of obstetrics and gynecology in any hospital are the prerogative of that hospital, not of this Board. The Board certifies as specialists those individuals who voluntarily appear for the purpose of evaluation and certification.

METHODS FOR MOC

1. Voluntary Recertification

Voluntary recertification applies **only** to those Diplomates whose certification occurred prior to 1986 (in general ob/gyn) or 1987 (in the subspecialties). These individuals have **NO** time limitation on their certificates.

2. Certificate Renewal

Certificate renewal applies to Diplomates with time-limited certificates (certificates issued in or after 1986 for general ob/gyn and in or after 1987 for subspecialists).

MOC will begin in the year the certificate expires (example: certification expires 2009, begin in January 2009).

Subspecialists will take the MOC in both ob/gyn and their subspecialty.

STATUS WITH THE BOARD

1. General Obstetrics and Gynecology

All persons certified by the Board are known as "Diplomates." Status of a Diplomate is time-limited if certification in general obstetrics and gynecology was obtained in or after November 1986. This time limit was for ten (10) years until 2001. The current time limit is six (6) years, after which the certificate is no longer valid. Each Diplomate must undergo a Board approved method of maintenance of certification in order to receive a new certificate.

2. Subspecialties

All persons certified in a subspecialty in or after November 1987 hold time-limited certificates in their subspecialty. If an individual has a time-limited certificate in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as in a subspecialty, **BOTH certificates will be time-limited to the expiration date printed on the subspecialty certificate.** If an individual has a certificate in obstetrics and gynecology dated before November 1986, and a subspecialty certificate dated in or after November 1987, the only time-limit is that placed on the subspecialty certificate. **In order to maintain certification in the subspecialty, however, such individuals MUST participate in BOTH basic and subspecialty MOC processes.**

3. Expired Certificate

- a. An individual has failed to complete successfully the ABOG MOC process prior to the expiration date printed on their time-limited certifying diploma.
- b. Individuals in this category are NO LONGER Diplomates of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and may not advertise or otherwise designate that they are ABOG certified.
- c. Former Diplomates whose time-limited certificates have expired may re-obtain Diplomate status by contacting the ABOG for specific requirements.

4. Retired Diplomate

- a. This is an individual who has retired from clinical practice at a time when they were a Diplomate.
- b. Individuals in this category are retired Diplomates. If they return to active practice after their time-limited certificate has expired, they must contact the ABOG for specific requirements. All new certificates will be time-limited.
- c. Individuals choosing to be a retired Diplomate must notify the Board. Failure to

take this action will result in an Expired Certificate status for an individual holding a time-limited certificate which has expired. In order to reestablish certification, these individuals must contact the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology to ascertain what is required. All new certificates will be time-limited.

5. Revoked Certificate

- a. An individual has had their Diplomate status revoked by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology for cause.
- b. Cause in this case may be due to, but is not limited to, licensure revocation by any State Board of Medical Examiners, violation of ABOG or ACOG rules and/or ethics principles or felony convictions.
- c. Such individuals will have the reason(s) for the restriction(s) made available for public review if requested and in requests for status letters.
- d. It is the responsibility of such individuals to inform the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology when, and if, ALL such restrictions have been removed by ALL sources.
- e. In order to reestablish certification, these individuals must contact the ABOG to ascertain what is required. All new certificates will be time-limited.

6. Restricted

- a. An individual with a restricted license (as defined in *Revocation of Diploma or Certificate*, page 28) may not participate in any ABOG examination or recertification/MOC process.
- b. Such individuals may be considered for revocation of Diplomate status (see number 5, above).
- c. Such individuals will have the reason(s) for the restriction(s) made available for public

review if requested and in requests for status letters.

- d. It is the responsibility of such individuals to inform the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology when, and if, ALL such restrictions have been removed by ALL sources.

INTRODUCTION

The MOC process will commence on January 1, 2008. Recertification will NOT be available after this date. This means that Diplomates with time-limited certificates that expire in 2008 and thereafter must enter the MOC process in January of the year their certification expires. This is a transitional period for the former ABC recertification process for time-limited certificates. The ABC process has become MOC Part II - ABC.

For example, if a Diplomate has a time-limited certification that expires in 2008, he/she must complete MOC Part II - ABC every year. In addition, he/she must start Parts I and IV of MOC no later than 2008. Only the MOC process is available. All Diplomates are required to complete all components of the MOC.

COMPONENTS OF MOC

The four components of the MOC program are discussed in the following sections. Diplomates with non-time-limited certificates may participate voluntarily and will NOT lose their certification if they discontinue the process.

A Diplomate must first register/apply with ABOG-MOC before applying with ACOG for Part IV.

Overview of MOC Parts I-IV

- I. PROFESSIONAL STANDING
 - A. Medical Professionalism in the New Millennium: A Physician Charter
 - B. Limitation and Revocation of Diplomate Status
- II. ANNUAL BOARD CERTIFICATION (ABC)
 - A. General Obstetrics and Gynecology

- B. Subspecialties
- C. Summary

III. COGNITIVE EXPERTISE (WRITTEN EXAMINATION)

- A. General Obstetrics and Gynecology
- B. Subspecialties
- C. Summary

The MOC Part III written examination is tentatively scheduled for 2013 in obstetrics and gynecology, as well as in the subspecialties.

IV. PRACTICE PERFORMANCE AND SELF-ASSESSMENT/CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Administered and tracked by ACOG.

The 2008 MOC Part II - ABC will be offered in both general obstetrics and gynecology and the three subspecialties. There will be at least twenty five (25) CME credits granted for successful completion of the MOC Part II - ABC each year the Part II is completed.

Physicians interested in the Part II should log on to www.abog.org and click on Member Login located at the top right of the home page.

For more information contact the Maintenance of Certification Department, 2915 Vine St. Dallas, TX 75204 or phone (214) 721-7510 or at our web site www.abog.org.

RESPONSIBILITY OF A DIPLOMATE

It is the responsibility of the Diplomate to seek information concerning the current requirements for maintenance of certification as an obstetrician and gynecologist. The Board does not assume responsibility for notifying a Diplomate of changing requirements for admissibility to any future examination or impending loss of admissibility to any examination. Moreover, Diplomates must meet the requirements published in this Bulletin for the year they are applying for the examinations listed in this Bulletin.

MOC EXAMINATION PROCESS

MOC PART I - PROFESSIONAL STANDING

Part I includes verification of medical licensure by ABOG and the Federation of State Medical Boards. There is no action or fee required of the Diplomate.

MOC PART II - ABC

This component of MOC has been in place since 1998 and is designated as the Annual Board Certification (ABC) process.

On-Line Application

Application for the MOC Part II - ABC should be completed on-line, along with payment by credit card. Go to www.abog.org, then select Member Login located at the top right of the home page.

General Ob/Gyn

The primary goal of the MOC Part II – ABC, is to encourage Diplomates to read important articles concerning clinical management and to encourage Diplomates of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology to develop a lifetime practice of learning.

In November, Diplomates may request an application on-line at www.abog.org by clicking Member Login for the application. The completed application and fee (see FEES, page 18) must be received in the Board office on or before February 28, 2008. Applications and fees received after February 28, 2008 are subject to a late fee (see FEES, page 18).

A Diplomate may make selections from several listed articles. After reading the selected articles, **all questions relating to each article MUST be answered.** A reading assignment consists of various articles with 20 questions assigned to each reading assignment. The questions will be multiple choice. One hundred twenty (120) questions must be answered from a total of 180 questions offered in any of three (3) categories (i.e., gynecology, obstetrics, and office practice). If a specific article is chosen, **ALL questions pertaining to that article MUST be answered,** or those questions not

answered will be counted as incorrect. There will be new articles added throughout the year. You will be e-mailed when the January, April, and July groups of articles are available. The reading lists will not include the actual articles, but will include references to major journals both in print and online. ABOG cannot supply any articles because of copyright laws.

Each January, April and July, a Diplomate will receive:

Gynecology Reading Assignments + 20 questions

Obstetrical Reading Assignments + 20 questions

Office Practice Reading Assignments + 20 questions
60 questions

Your answers should be recorded at our web site by selecting the Member Login located at the top right of the home page.

Total: Reading Assignments + 180 Questions:
60 in Gynecology
60 in Obstetrics
60 in Office Practice

Thus, a Diplomate must complete enough reading assignments/articles to answer one hundred twenty (120) of the one hundred eighty (180) questions available. A selection may be made in two of the three categories: (gynecology, obstetrics or office practice) or from all three categories.

A passing grade can be obtained by correctly answering 84 of the 120 questions, *i.e.*, 70%, but **ALL** 120 questions **MUST** be answered. **For example, if only 119 questions are answered, this will automatically result in a failing grade.** There will be an award of 25 CME credits for successfully passing the MOC Part II.

For an additional fee of \$50.00, submitted with the original application, ten (10) supplemental CME credits may be earned by correctly answering 70% (126 questions) of **ALL** 180 questions. This means that **ALL** 180 questions **MUST** be answered and a passing grade earned to receive the additional CME credits. Unless this fee has been paid, the Board will report the score only on the first 120 questions received.

CME credits are issued by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Inc., (ACOG) for the year in which the examination was taken. Non-

ACOG members are subject to an additional fee for issuance of CME credits.

By using the on-line answer sheet, answers may be saved as the articles are completed. **A WORD OF CAUTION, once answers are submitted they cannot be changed.** ALL answers **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN** September 30, 2008.

A Diplomate must attest that they personally have read the actual articles and personally answered the questions.

A Diplomate must attest that they personally have read the actual articles and personally answered the questions.

If a Diplomate receives notice by November 2008, of failure of the MOC Part II examination, a second attempt to take the same examination will be allowed. Information will be included in the notice of failure about how the Diplomate may reapply. Please note there is an additional fee for retaking this examination.

Subspecialties

The MOC Part II process also is offered in 2008 to subspecialists. In November, Diplomates may request an application on-line at www.abog.org then click Member Login for this examination. The completed application and fee (see FEES, page 18) **MUST** be received in the Board office on or before February 28, 2008. Applications and fees received after February 28, 2008 are subject to a late fee (see FEES, page 18).

There will be new articles added throughout the year. You will be e-mailed when the January, April, and July groups of articles are available. The reading lists will not include the actual articles, but will include references to major journals both in print and online. ABOG cannot supply these articles because of copyright laws.

If a specific reading assignment is chosen, **ALL** questions pertaining to that assignment **MUST** be answered, or those questions not answered will be counted as incorrect.

In summary, a subspecialist **MUST** answer a total of 60 questions (out of 180 questions offered in general ob/gyn) from books 1-3 and **ALL** 90 questions from books 4-6, for a total of 150 questions.

Each January, April and July, a Diplomate will receive:

Gynecology Reading Assignments	+ 20 questions
Obstetrics Reading Assignments	+ 20 questions
Office Practice Reading Assignments	<u>+ 20 questions</u>
	60 questions

and a second booklet containing:
Subspecialty Reading Assignments + 30 questions

Your answers should be recorded at our web site by selecting the Member Login located at the top of the home page.

A passing grade and receipt of the 30 CME credits is achieved by correctly answering 105 of the 150 questions (70%), but **ALL** 150 questions **MUST** be answered. Thus, at least 60 of the 180 general ob/gyn questions must be answered plus all 90 of the subspecialty questions. **Failure to answer even one less question than the 60 + 90 questions as outlined above will result in an automatic failure.** There are no extra CME credits offered in the subspecialty MOC Part II exam. CME credits are issued by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Inc. (ACOG). Non-ACOG members are subject to an additional fee for issuance of CME credits.

By using the on-line answer sheet, answers may be saved as the articles are completed. **A WORD OF CAUTION, once answers are submitted they cannot be changed.** **ALL** answers **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN** September 30, 2008.



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY



OFFICIAL FRAMES
AND ANNUAL
RECERTIFICATION
LABEL

Diplomates who enroll and pass the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's MOC Part II - ABC process the first time will receive an official framed duplicate diploma and the first MOC Part II - ABC label. The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology covers the cost of the certificate, frame (The Renaissance) and appropriate label.

Future MOC Part II - ABC labels will be sent directly to the Diplomate at no cost, for easy insertion into the frame.

The Board has placed no limit on the quantity of additional framed certificates that may be ordered by Diplomates.

Additional framed certificates may be ordered from the manufacturer, upon completion of MOC Part II - ABC. A brochure and order form will be supplied.

FEES

Fees have been computed to cover the costs of examination and administrative expenses; therefore, they will not be refunded or credited. All fees must be paid in United States currency. The physician's credit card record or canceled check should be considered the receipt.

There will be an additional charge for requesting an application by mail. The Board strongly recommends applying on-line to avoid this additional fee.

If both the application and payment are not completed on-line the Board recommends that a courier service be used.

General Ob/Gyn MOC Part II - ABC

The fee for the on-line general ob/gyn MOC is \$235.00, due with the completed application on or before February 28, 2008. After February 28, a late fee of \$110.00 must be included (totaling \$345.00) with the application. The deadline for receipt of applications, plus the \$110.00 late fee is June 30, 2008. From July 1 through August 29, 2008, a second late fee of \$220.00 must be included (totaling \$455.00) with the application. The FINAL DEADLINE period is from August 30, 2008, through September 11, 2008. The third late fee of \$330.00

must be paid (totaling \$565.00) with the on-line application. *An additional \$50.00 fee for extra CME credits for answering all 180 questions may also be enclosed with the application. If the additional CME credits are requested at a later date the late fee will apply.* There will be an additional fee of \$100.00 for requesting an application by mail. The Board strongly recommends applying on-line to avoid this additional fee. **These fees are NOT refundable.**

Subspecialty MOC Part II - ABC

The fee for the on-line subspecialty MOC is \$295.00, due with the completed application on or before February 28, 2008. After February 28, a late fee of \$110.00 must be included (totaling \$405.00) with the application. The deadline for receipt of application, plus the late fee is June 30, 2008. From July 1 through August 29, 2008, a second late fee of \$220.00 must be included (totaling \$515.00) with the application. The FINAL DEADLINE period is from August 30, 2008 through September 11, 2008. The third late fee of \$330.00 must be paid (totaling \$625.00) with the on-line application. There will be an additional fee of \$100.00 for requesting an application by mail. The Board strongly recommends applying on-line to avoid this additional fee. **These fees are NOT refundable.**

THE APPROPRIATE LATE FEE WILL BE ADDED TO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER FEBRUARY 28, 2008. SEE TABLE (PAGE 38) FOR FINAL DEADLINES FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS.

No application fees will be credited against a future application or refunded.

MOC PART III - WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This component of MOC will become available in 2013. The actual examination will be administered in August 2013 (5th year of the cycle) and again in August 2014. Thereafter the exam will be given once or twice a year.

On-Line Application

Application for MOC Part III should be completed on-line, along with payment by credit card. The

enrollment period will be from January 1, 2013, through March 31, 2013. The application and examination fees have not been determined at this time.

General Ob/Gyn and Subspecialties

The primary goal of MOC Part III, Written Examination, is to ensure that Diplomates have retained and are currently employing basic information learned during their training as well as the new information obtained by their participation in the MOC Part II - ABC process.

This part of the MOC process must be passed during each six-year cycle. A Diplomate may apply and take this secure proctored written examination in the fifth or sixth year of each six-year MOC cycle.

Physicians certified in obstetrics and gynecology must take a mandatory section in obstetrics and gynecology (100 questions), required of all physicians, plus a section of at least 100 questions selected by the physician, in ONE OF FOUR of the following selectives: (1) obstetrics; (2) gynecology; (3) obstetrics and gynecology; or (4) office practice. The office practice examination includes those procedures performed in an office setting or in non-hospitalized patients.

Physicians certified in a subspecialty must maintain certification BOTH in obstetrics and gynecology and in their subspecialty. They must take the selective in that subspecialty. The written examination will consist of a mandatory section in obstetrics and gynecology (100 questions) plus a section of at least 100 questions in the respective subspecialty: (1) reproductive endocrinology and infertility; (2) gynecologic oncology; or (3) maternal-fetal medicine.

MOC PART IV - THE ROAD TO MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE

This part of the MOC process is a joint project of the ABOG and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The goal of this combined effort is to help Diplomates and Fellows to maintain the excellence they exhibited when they passed their original written and oral certification examinations.

The program consists of a chart review based on diagnosis-specific modules. Since the time limit for certificates is six years, the program is based on a six-year cycle. Each Diplomate will need to complete ten modules in the six-year cycle. Each module must be distinct, no duplication is allowed during the six-year cycle. A physician cannot work on more than three modules per year. However, any other combination to reach ten modules in six years is acceptable. The most important topics in our specialty will be the subjects of these modules.

General Ob/Gyn

Modules in obstetrics, gynecology, office practice, and cross content subjects such, as patient safety and communication will be available to all Diplomates and Fellows without cost. If a Diplomate is not an ACOG fellow, the cost is \$195 per module, payable when the module is selected.

General obstetricians/gynecologists must complete ten modules from any basic category or cross content during each six-year cycle as long as there is sufficient patient volume to answer the "Practice Profile/Assessment" portion of each module. There are working groups of ABOG and ACOG members who continually develop new modules and review those currently available.

Subspecialties

Modules will be available in maternal-fetal medicine, gynecologic oncology, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility for subspecialists. The physician determines which modules they wish to complete, and the selection should mimic their practice. Subspecialists must complete five modules from the general OB/GYN categories or from the cross content areas and five modules from their respective subspecialty during each six-year cycle.

Part IV-The Road to Maintaining Excellence program will be available on-line via the ACOG web site (www.acog.org) beginning in January 2008. **Physicians can access the program on-line only after the application process has been completed with the ABOG.** This application

process has previously been described on page 13 under MOC Part II - ABC.

In order to access ACOG, one must log on to www.acog.org and enter their ACOG ID. The program will keep track of physician module status throughout each MOC cycle. The information submitted will be on a secure web portal. Once the module is complete, the only record maintained is that of the completed module. This data will be submitted electronically to ABOG.

Module Description

A physician selects a diagnosis from the list of available modules on the ACOG web site. Once selected, the physician will be asked to pull up to ten charts of patients they have managed with that diagnosis. They can be their own patients or a patient they managed of an associate. There will also be approximately two to three references addressing the management of the condition. Next, the physician will be asked a series of questions about patient management in a yes/no format. Finally, the physician will be asked to attest that they completed the module and any possible impact on their practice. This completes Phase I of a given module.

At a given time after completing the module, the physician will again be asked to respond as to their current practice. This will not entail an additional chart review, simply that the physician continue to evaluate their practice and incorporate new guidelines. This will complete Phase II of a given module. At this point, the module is considered complete, and the physician will receive CME credits. Once a module is completed, ACOG will submit this information to ABOG. In the future, there will also be a hospital verification that the participating physician actually did manage patients the way indicated in the questionnaire.

A Diplomate should register with the Board no later than January of the year their certificate expires. In fact, registering before January will ensure an individual can begin MOC at the start of the new year. For example, if a certificate expires in December 2010, a Diplomate should contact ABOG in November or December of 2009.

IF A DIPLOMATE HOLDING A TIME-LIMITED CERTIFICATE HAS NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE MOC PROCESS DURING ANY CONTINUOUS TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF TIME DURING THE SIX-YEAR MOC CYCLE, THEY WILL BE INFORMED THAT THEY ARE NO LONGER BOARD CERTIFIED. THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MEDICAL SPECIALTIES (ABMS) AND THE ACOG WILL BE INFORMED THAT SUCH AN INDIVIDUAL HOLDS AN EXPIRED CERTIFICATE, AND THEY ARE NO LONGER CERTIFIED BY THE ABOG.

IN ORDER TO REGAIN ABOG CERTIFICATION, AN INDIVIDUAL WITH AN EXPIRED CERTIFICATE MUST SUCCESSFULLY PASS A SECURE PROCTORED WRITTEN EXAMINATION AND IMMEDIATELY RESTART THE ENTIRE MOC PROCESS.

THE ABOG AND ACOG WILL NOT NOTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL PHYSICIAN OF THE IMPENDING LOSS OF BOARD CERTIFICATION. EACH DIPLOMATE CAN AND MUST TRACK THEIR OWN PROGRESS ON THE ABOG WEB SITE.

**MOC REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL APPLICANTS
IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AND IN
THE SUBSPECIALTIES**

A. Requirements for All Applicants

1. Diplomates may make application in November for the MOC process offered by ABOG. Diplomates who hold certificates expiring after December 31, 2008 will voluntarily recertify. Diplomates who possess a certificate expiring on or before December 31, 2008, who successfully complete the MOC Part II - ABC process will receive certification valid through December 31, 2009.
2. Unrestricted license to practice medicine in any state or territory (United States or a Province of Canada) in which the physician holds a current medical license. (A copy of each license held, with the expiration date, must accompany the application.)
3. If the physician's license to practice medicine has been revoked or restricted in

any state or territory of the United States or a Province of Canada, or if termination or restriction of hospital practice because of personal, physical or mental impairments, excessive operative complications or for disciplinary reasons has occurred within the past six (6) years, a written explanation of the circumstances involved must accompany the application to sit for these examinations.

4. Good moral and ethical character.
5. If the applying physician is actively engaged in unsupervised independent hospital care, the physician must have unrestricted privileges to practice in each of the hospitals in which patient care has been conducted for the past six (6) years.
6. If the applying physician has no **hospital practice**, another (ABOG) Diplomate (excluding spouse or other family member), in good standing, must attest that the applying physician is of good moral and ethical character, and that the applying physician has **elected** not to have a hospital practice.
7. If the applying physician is not actively involved in the **clinical practice** of medicine, a letter of explanation must be submitted with the application, and another (ABOG) Diplomate (excluding spouse or other family member), in good standing, must attest that the applying physician is of good moral and ethical character, and that the applying physician has **elected** not to have a clinical practice.
8. The physician will be expected to sign the following statement: "There have been no restrictions in my hospital privileges since the date of my application." Physicians who are unable to sign this statement will not receive the results of the MOC process and may have the results voided, unless they present evidence that full and unrestricted privileges have been restored.
9. **PHYSICIANS PRACTICING IN A COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES OR CANADA** must submit, **with the application**, a letter(s) from a senior responsible officer in the hospital(s) where the physician practices, verifying the physician's responsibility for independent,

unsupervised care of obstetrical and gynecological patients.

10. The Board requires, by confidential inquiry, documented evidence concerning a physician's professional reputation, moral and ethical character and in-hospital practice privileges. This evidence may be supplied by administrative officers of organizations and hospitals where the physician is known and practices.

B. Additional Specific Requirements for Subspecialists

All subspecialists must meet the requirements listed immediately above under "A" plus the requirements listed below (1-3).

1. Subspecialists holding time-limited certificates in BOTH general obstetrics and gynecology AND a subspecialty, in which the time-limitation is prior to the expiration date of the general obstetrics and gynecology certificate, but not the subspecialty certificate, may participate in the MOC Part II - ABC process. Their subspecialty will be included in the MOC process selected. **IMPORTANTLY**, the expiration date for both certificates is linked to the expiration date printed on the subspecialty certificate. The Diplomate undergoing MOC Part II - ABC will receive only one certificate, reflecting recertification in both obstetrics and gynecology and their subspecialty.
2. Physicians holding unlimited general obstetrics and gynecology certificates, but time-limited subspecialty certificates may participate in the MOC Part II - ABC process in the year of the expiration date printed on the time-limited subspecialty certificate. Upon completion of the MOC Part II - ABC process, the next expiration date will be December 31 of the appropriate year from the last subspecialty certification.
3. The procedure will follow the general guidelines and philosophy of the process described for obstetrics and gynecology (see MOC Examination Process, page 13).

DETERMINATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Board will require by confidential inquiry, documented evidence concerning a physician's professional reputation, moral and ethical character and in-hospital practice privileges from administrative officers of organizations and institutions to whom the applicant and their conduct of practice is known.

The ABOG will do timely reviews of all applicants status with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). If an applicant has had their license revoked or restricted by any state licensure authority, they will not be allowed to participate in any ABOG or ACOG MOC processes until and unless all such restrictions are removed.

If a physician is involved in litigation or investigation regarding ethical or moral issues, the individual will not be scheduled for examination, and the application will be re-examined. The Credentials Committee usually will defer such a decision for one year to gain further information.

Falsification of data or evidence of other egregious ethical, moral or professional misbehavior (page 28) may result in deferral of a physician's application for at least three years.

The physician must then meet all requirements in effect at the end of the deferred period.

RULING NOT ADMISSIBLE

A physician not admitted to any MOC process may reapply by submitting a new application, paying the application fee, and meeting the requirements applicable at the time of the re-application.

RE-APPLICATION

Physicians who fail to complete an MOC process may reapply. Request for an application must be submitted upon notification of results.

For more information regarding the Maintenance of Certification contact Ms. Marsha Markham, Maintenance of Certification Administrator, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology,

2915 Vine Street, Dallas, TX 75204 or go to at our web site at www.abog.org.

The application fee is due upon submission of the application.

EMERGENCY CARE AND LIMITATION OF PRACTICE

Physicians who assume responsibility for the health of male patients for operative or other care will not be regarded as specialists in obstetrics and gynecology except as this practice is related to governmental services, the investigation and management of an infertility problem, or care in an emergency. Physicians applying for MOC may, when necessary, participate in general emergency care. What constitutes a satisfactory limitation of practice to the specialty necessarily depends upon the qualifications and experience of the individual, the availability and capabilities of other physicians in the community. As a rule, the privileges granted physicians in the practice of obstetrics and gynecology in any hospital are the prerogative of that hospital, not of this Board.

APPLICATION LIMITS

To apply for the MOC process, an application should be requested on-line at www.abog.org then click Member Login located at the top of the home page or by writing or sending a fax to (214) 871-1943 to the Board office. In order to speed the processing of applications, on-line applications are strongly recommended. In the immediate future, only on-line applications will be accepted. During the transitional period, applications submitted by mail will be accepted, but there will be an additional \$100.00 charge for requesting an application by mail. The Board strongly recommends applying on-line to avoid this additional fee. The **deadline** for receipt of the completed applications is February 28, 2008 for the MOC process. Applications received after the above date, will be charged the appropriate late fee (see TABLE, page 38).

RESULTS OF THE MOC PROCESS

The results of the MOC Part II - ABC process will be reported to each physician no later than November 2008. If a physician has not received notification by December 1, 2008, it is the responsibility of the Diplomate to contact the Board regarding this matter.

LISTING OF RECERTIFIED DIPLOMATES

Each year the Board office notifies the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of the names and addresses of the Diplomates successfully completing the MOC process in that year. A list of the names of these Diplomates is also sent to the American Board of Medical Specialties with the request that they be included in the next issues of the Directory of Certified Obstetricians-Gynecologists.

After this effort to assure initial listings of these Diplomates, the Board assumes no responsibility for a Diplomates listing in subsequent issues of any directory.

REVOCATION OF DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE

1. All Candidates for Certification, Recertification and MOC and all physicians holding Diplomate Status MUST hold an unrestricted active license to engage in the practice of medicine in all of the states and territories in which they are licensed, subject to the exceptions hereinafter specified.
 - a. A physician's license shall be deemed "restricted" for purposes of this policy if, as a result of final action by a State or other legally constituted Medical Board (hereinafter "State Medical Board"), the physician shall have:
 - (1) had his/her license revoked or surrendered his/her license in lieu of revocation;
 - (2) had his/her license suspended for a specified period of time or until specified conditions have been met and the suspension is no longer in effect;
 - (3) been placed on probation and the probationary period had not expired;

- (4) been made subject to special conditions or requirements which are still in effect, (including, but not limited to, supervision, chaperoning during the examination of patients, additional training beyond that required of all physicians for the maintenance of licensure) and regardless of whether or not such conditions or requirements are imposed by order of the State Medical Board or are the result of a voluntary agreement between the physician and the State Medical Board.
 - b. Letters of concern or reprimand, not resulting in one of the stipulations which are enumerated in Section 1.a. of these requirements shall not be considered a restriction on the physician's license, even if such letters are made part of the physician's record. Likewise, a physician who has voluntarily entered into a rehabilitation program for chemical dependency or a practice improvement plan with the approval of a State Medical Board shall not be considered for purposes of this policy, to have a restriction on his/her license to practice medicine.
2. Consequences of License Revocation, Restriction or Surrender
- a. Upon receipt of Notice that the license of a physician seeking to sit for Initial Certification, Recertification or MOC has been revoked or restricted, as herein defined, such Physician shall be disqualified from sitting for any ABOG Certifying Examination until such restriction has been removed or expires.
 - b. Upon receipt of Notice that a Diplomates license has been revoked or restricted, as herein defined, the Board has the authority and may at its discretion, undertake proceedings, consistent with due process, to revoke his/her Diplomate Status. Once revoked, the Diplomate Status of the physician shall be reinstated only after the revocation or restriction on his/her license has been removed or expires and then only on such terms as the Board deems appropriate, considering, among others things, the period of time the physician has

- not been able to engage in the unrestricted practice of medicine and his/her specialty.
- c. Upon receipt of Notice that the license of a Candidate or Diplomate has been revoked or restricted under an order which nevertheless permits him/her to continue to practice medicine, the Board has the authority and shall at its discretion undertake proceedings, consistent with due process, to determine whether or not such restriction is of such nature and extent as to preclude consideration for initial Certification, Recertification or MOC until the revocation or restriction is removed. In making such determination, the Board must evaluate such restrictions or revocations in accordance with pre-established standards, which are objective and non-discriminatory and are applied consistently and uniformly.
 - d. The Board shall require each Diplomate or any physician seeking to sit for Initial Certification, Recertification or MOC to provide the Board with complete information concerning revocation or any and all restrictions placed on his/her license within sixty (60) days after its imposition. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the identity of the State Medical Board imposing the restriction, as well as the restriction's duration, basis, and specific terms and conditions. The Board shall also periodically review the database of the Federation of State Medical Boards, as appropriate and when available, to identify any Candidates or Diplomates who have failed to disclose license restrictions in a timely manner. However, the Candidate or Diplomate has the affirmative obligation to advise the Board of all revocations or restrictions and to inform the Board when such restrictions or revocations expire or are otherwise removed. Candidates or Diplomates who are discovered not to have made timely disclosure shall be required to show cause why their Candidate or Diplomate status should not be withdrawn, deferred or otherwise sanctioned and the Board may defer further consideration or reinstatement of Diplomate status until such showing is satisfactorily made.

3. Each candidate, when making application, signs an agreement regarding disqualification or revocation of their diploma, certificate, or other evidence of qualification for cause. Disqualification or Diplomate revocation also may occur whenever:
 - a. the physician shall not, in fact, have been eligible to receive the diploma or certificate, irrespective of whether or not the facts constituting such ineligibility were known to or could have been ascertained by this Board, its members, directors, examiners, officers, or agents at or before the time of issuance of such diploma or certificate;
 - b. any rule governing examination for a diploma or certificate shall have been violated by the physician but the fact of such violation shall not have been ascertained until after the issuance of his diploma or certificate;
 - c. the physician shall have violated the moral or ethical standards of the practice of medicine then accepted by organized medicine in the locality where the Diplomate is practicing and, without limitation of the foregoing, the forfeiture, revocation or suspension of their license to practice medicine, or the expulsion from, or suspension from the rights and privileges of membership in a local, regional or national organization of their professional peers shall be evidence of a violation of such standards of the ethical practice of medicine;
 - d. the physician shall fail to comply with the rules and regulations of this Board;
 - e. the issuance of, or receipt of such diploma, certificate or other evidence of qualification shall have been contrary to or in violation of the Certificate of Incorporation or the By-laws of this Board; and/or
 - f. the physician shall have violated any of "The Ethical Considerations in the Practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology" currently published by The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and adhered to by the Board.

Upon revocation of any diploma or certificate by this Board as aforesaid, the holder shall return their diploma or certificate and other evidence of

qualification to the Executive Director of the Board and their name shall be removed from the list of certified specialists.

APPEALS

Appeals from any action of the Board may be initiated by writing to the Executive Director within 90 days of notification of the action which is being appealed.

MOC - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When did ABC start/stop?

ABC was the major method of recertification from 1998 to December 2007. Starting in 2008, it will become MOC Part II - ABC, one of the four components of MOC.

2. When did the June, six-year written examination stop?

June of 2007.

3. I passed the oral examination in 2007, when do I need to start MOC?

January of 2013.

4. When does MOC start?

January 1, 2008.

5. When do I start?

By January of the year your certificate expires. It is recommended that you actually apply as early as November or December. In other words, if your certification expires December 31, 2009, it is recommended that you apply for MOC in November or December of 2008 but at least by January of 2009.

6. What are my options for remaining certified?

You MUST remain active in the MOC process in order to qualify to sit for the written examination. For this reason, taking Part III in

the fifth year of MOC is recommended. The MOC Part III written examination will be administered for the first time in 2013.

7. What if I do not remain active in MOC?

ABMS will be notified that you are no longer Board certified.

8. My certificate expires in 2008. Am I certified in January 2009?

As long as you start in January of 2008 and remain in the MOC program & successfully complete all four components you will have an active certification with ABOG and remain a Diplomate.

9. I am taking the oral exam in 2008, when will I start MOC?

You are required to begin MOC immediately in January 2009. Your certification is only valid as long as you maintain it through the MOC process. Upon passing the oral examination, the User ID and Password may be included in your pass letter. (The January oral examination is considered part of the previous year.)

10. I am "grandfathered" in my general Board but not my subspecialty Board. How may I remain certified?

You must complete all four MOC components. You must complete the general and subspecialty sections. In other words, you cannot just maintain certification in the subspecialty portion. However, you may maintain your general certification by being "grandfathered" if you no longer want/need subspecialty certification.

11. I am "grandfathered"; do I need to start MOC?

No. You may voluntarily participate in MOC Part II - ABC for CME credit only or you may complete the entire MOC process (Parts I-IV) for voluntary MOC.

12. What will I be called if I am "grandfathered" & complete the MOC for CME credit only, but don't complete the entire MOC process?

Board certified.

13. I am an administrator, may I maintain my certification?

Yes. If you complete Parts I, II & III of MOC you will have an active certification. You will have an asterisk () after your name to show that you are not clinically active.*

14. What if I would like to be clinically active again?

You will have to complete the MOC Part III written examination and start all parts of MOC.

15. Do I have to complete all the missed years?

No. After passing the MOC Part III written examination, you will continue with Parts I, II and IV to keep your certification active.

16. If I do not achieve a 70% or higher pass rate on MOC Part II, what happens? Do I get another chance? Will it be in the same year?

Yes. If you receive notice by December 2008 of failure on the MOC examination, a second attempt to take and pass the same examination will be allowed. Information will be included in the notice of failure about how you may reapply. Please note that there is an additional fee associated with retaking this examination.

17. Do I have to pass to earn the CME credits?

Yes.

18. How does an incomplete examination affect the original certificate?

If your certification is not expiring, there is no affect. If you are taking the MOC examination in the year your certificate expires, you will not be certified.

19. If I am applying for hospital privileges and do not pass the MOC Part II - ABC examination, will this information be released if the hospital asks?

The short answer is no; however, if you have a time-limited certificate which is expiring and you fail the examination, your certificate will expire. If the hospital inquires, they will be told that your certificate has expired.

20. Where can I obtain the articles?

The articles can be obtained from your hospital library or a medical college near you. You also can obtain some of the articles from ACOG's publications. ABOG cannot supply these articles because of copyright laws.

21. May I refer to the articles while answering the questions?

YES!!

22. When will the final grade be released?

The final grades will be reported in November of each year, unless you have not passed and have been given additional time to retake the examination. In this case, the results of the examination will be provided one month after you repeat the examination (see #16, above). This information will be furnished to ACOG in January.

23. Are the CME credits for the year in which I am taking the MOC Part II – ABC examination or the next year? When do they become effective?

*The CME credits are effective for the year in which you take the MOC Part II - ABC examination. For example, if you take the MOC Part II - ABC in **2008**, the CME credits are effective for the year **2008**.*

24. If I answer all 180 questions, do I still have to get only 84 questions correct out of the 180 or do I have to get more answers correct?

You will be graded on the first 120 questions that you submit. You must correctly answer 70% or 84 of the first 120 questions you choose. If you choose to answer the next 60 questions and submitted the extra \$50.00, you will receive 10 additional CME credits. You still must answer 70% of these additional questions. Thus, you MUST answer all 180 questions, and correctly answer 70% or 126 of the 180.

25. If my certificate expires in 2009 and I am taking the MOC process in 2008, when will my certificate expire?

Your expiration date does not change. You will earn the CME credits only.

26. Are all of the answers to the questions in the assigned articles?

Usually. There are occasional exceptions to this when a higher order of thinking is required to select the correct answer. In other words, you must read the article in order to arrive at a conclusion to a problem-solving question, which is not specifically stated in the article. This type of question is not frequent, but at least one such question is almost always included in each of the assignments.

27. Can all of the questions be answered on one answer sheet or at one time on the computer?

Yes. You should answer your questions online. DO NOT answer your questions online and mail in an answer sheet.

28. Who will contact me that my certification is expiring?

It is the responsibility of the Diplomate to seek information concerning the current requirements for maintenance of certification as an obstetrician and gynecologist.

29. I am not a member of ACOG; will I be allowed to complete Part IV of the MOC?

Yes. There will be an additional fee payable to ACOG. Please see page 21.

30. When do I apply with ACOG for Part IV of MOC?

In January of the year your certificate expires. You must first register/apply with ABOG-MOC before applying with ACOG for Part IV.

31. What is a module? Part IV of MOC?

A short 2-3 page "best practice" document designed to allow the physician to evaluate his/her own practice activities. There are modules in Obstetrics, Gynecology, Office Practice, and Cross Content. A physician enrolled in MOC must complete 10 modules in the 6-year cycle. There are also modules in the subspecialties (Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Endocrinology Infertility, and Gynecologic Oncology). Please see "MOC Simplified" on the ABOG web site (www.abog.org) for a sample module.

32. May I contact ACOG with questions regarding modules and/or CME credits?

Yes. At ACOG, contact Megan McReynolds (mmcreynolds@acog.org).

33. What if I fail the MOC Part III written examination when taking it in the sixth year?

You will have a lapse in certification. You will not be certified until you successfully pass the written examination portion of MOC.

34. Will I receive a label for my wall/frame?

Yes. A yearly label will be given upon successful completion of MOC Part II - ABC. You will also receive the pass letter in the fall stating that you are an active candidate in MOC. YOU MUST APPLY EVERY FALL FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S EXAMINATION.

FAQ's are updated often and can be accessed online at www.abog.org.

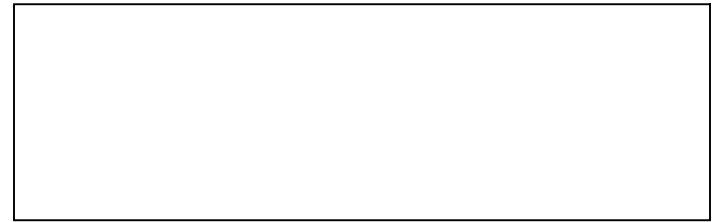
SUMMARY OF DATES, DEADLINES, FEES AND LATE FEES FOR 2008 MOC EXAMINATIONS

DATE	APPLICATION	RECEIPT DEADLINE	\$
November, 2007	Diplomate should request on-line application form. Application + fee must be received in the Board office by to avoid the late fee	February 28, 2008	\$235.00 General Ob/Gyn) \$295.00 (/ Subspecialties)
March 1, 2008	Application, fee + LATE FEE (\$110.00) due in Board office by	June 30, 2008	\$235.00+\$110.00= \$345.00 \$295.00+\$110.00= \$405.00
July 1, 2008	Application, fee + LATE FEE (\$220.00) due in Board office by	August 29, 2008	\$235.00+\$220.00= \$455.00 \$295.00= \$220.00=\$515.00
August 30, 2008	Application, fee + LATE FEE (\$330.00) due in Board office by	September 11, 2008	\$235.00+\$330.00= \$565.00 \$295.00+\$330.00= \$625.00
January, 2008	First e-mailing of test booklets to Diplomates		
April, 2008	Second e-mailing of test booklets to Diplomates		
July, 2008	Third e-mailing of test booklets to Diplomates		
September 30, 2008	ALL answers MUST be received in the Board office	September 30, 2008	
November, 2008	Grades reported to Diplomates		
December 1, 2008	Diplomate must notify Board if grade has not been received	December 1, 2008	
December, 2008	Grades reported to ACOG for CME credit	December, 2008	

Applications sent by regular mail will be charged an extra \$100.00.

AMERICAN BOARD OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY, INC.
NORMAN F. GANT, M.D.
Executive Director
2915 Vine Street
Dallas, TX 75204

Address Correction Requested



Maintenance of Certification Information