



## AN INTRODUCTION TO MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC)

Once you successfully pass the certifying examination of the American Board of Dermatology, becoming a diplomate of the Board, you will automatically enter into **Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**. The certificate you are awarded for passing the certifying examination is valid for ten years. During this ten-year cycle of MOC you will be required to fulfill certain requirements which are outlined below.

### MOC CONSISTS OF FOUR ELEMENTS:

- Part 1: Evidence of professional standing
- Part 2: Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and self-assessment
- Part 3: Evidence of cognitive expertise
- Part 4: Evaluation of performance in practice

*This table summarizes the tasks required in order to complete the ten-year MOC cycle and to remain an active participant. Notation of active participation in MOC is published on the American Board of Medical Specialties website which is available to the public. It is soon to be published on the American Board of Dermatology website as well.*

*It will be your responsibility to manage your MOC table at [www.abderm.org](http://www.abderm.org) to accurately reflect completion of the required MOC activities.*

### MOC PARTICIPATION (begins Jan1 following successful completion of the examination)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
ANNUAL \$150 FEE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LICENSE ATTESTATION (COMPONENT 1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CME ATTESTATION (COMPONENT 2) 25 CME HOURS/YEAR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PATIENT SAFETY MODULE (COMPONENT 2)		✓								
SELF ASSESSMENT (COMPONENT 2)			#1			#2			#3	
PATIENT COMMUNICATION SURVEY (COMPONENT 4)					#1					#2
PEER COMMUNICATION SURVEY (COMPONENT 4)					#1					#2
PRACTICE ASSESSMENT/QI (COMPONENT 4)					#1					#2
EXAMINATION (COMPONENT 3) (MAY BE TAKEN ANYTIME YR 3-10)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

### LICENSE ATTESTATION AND MOC FEE

Annual attestation is required that each license held by a diplomate is full and unrestricted. The MOC fee must be paid annually. You will be required to begin paying this annual \$150 fee in year 1 of the MOC cycle.

### CME ATTESTATION

Notation of the number of hours of CME accrued is required each year. 25 hours per year are required.

### PATIENT SAFETY MODULE

Once per ten-year cycle the diplomate is required to complete a program targeting patient safety. The module must be completed within the first two years of the 10-year cycle. Resources available to satisfy this requirement are noted on the ABD website.

### PATIENT AND PEER COMMUNICATION SURVEYS

Between years 1 and 5 and years 6 and 10, each diplomate must participate in surveys sent to patients and peers regarding communication skills. Resources available to satisfy this requirement are noted on the ABD website. A 360 non-direct patient care survey is available for dermatopathologists.

### PRACTICE ASSESSMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Between years 1 and 5 and years 6 and 10, each diplomate is required to engage in an exercise of practice review. For most individuals, this will entail chart review and abstraction with submission of the data to a third party with feedback relating to evidence-based guidelines.

### COGNITIVE EXAMINATION

Once per ten-year cycle, the diplomate must take and pass an examination. While the venue and mechanisms of administration of the examination may change, the basic structure will remain practice oriented.

## 2012 IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION

### REPORTING ERROR NECESSITATING RE-ISSUING OF THE EXAMINATION RESULTS

We sincerely apologize for the need to reissue the results of the 2012 In-Training Examination (ITE) which resulted in the lowering of some individuals' scores. Our psychometrician, who was new to the ITE format, misunderstood our request for percentile ranking by PGY level. Fortunately we were notified of the error by alert Program Directors, and we were able to send corrected results in a short period of time.

### EXAMINATION SCORING

Each examination given by the ABD is subjected to intense scrutiny by our psychometrician. Questions that perform poorly are flagged and reviewed by members of the examination committee. A question may perform poorly for a variety of reasons: the knowledge was not generally known by the tested population; the image did not appropriately portray the disorder; distracters were not parallel or were too close in meaning; the question was too easy and did not discriminate the high from the low test takers. After discussion, the committee chairs determine whether to keep or delete the question from the final scoring.

Of the 250 questions on the 2012 examination, 18 items were flagged for poor performance. Following review and discussion, 7 of those 18 items were deleted from the scoring. Two questions that were deleted from scoring are shown to the right.

1. Which of the following surgical hand scrubs has the broadest antimicrobial spectrum?

- A) 70% Alcohol
- B) Chlorhexidine gluconate
- C) Parachlorometaxyleneol
- D) Povidone-iodine
- E) Triclosan

The correct answer is A) 70% alcohol (Robinson, et al. (eds) 2nd Edition, 2010, p31). Very few residents selected the correct answer, and therefore the question was removed from final scoring of the examination.

2. A 60-year-old woman with carcinoma of the left breast who takes tamoxifen and who has had radiation therapy is being evaluated because of this eruption. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A) Allergic contact dermatitis
- B) Erysipelas
- C) Erythema ab igne
- D) Inflammatory carcinoma
- E) Radiation recall phenomenon

The correct answer is D) inflammatory carcinoma, however E) radiation recall phenomenon was selected most frequently. The committee felt that residents had insufficient exposure to this condition to be able to recognize it, and deleted the question from final scoring.



## FIVE YEAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Beginning January 1, 2012, residents who complete an approved dermatology residency will not be permitted to take the certifying examination later than five years following the completion of their training. A physician who has not successfully completed the examination within 5 years may not claim to be "board eligible" in dermatology unless he or she is unable to take the examination because of military deployment or catastrophic illness. If either of these situations exists, the physician may apply to the Board for a one or two year deferral. The decision to grant or deny a deferral will be at the sole discretion of the Board.

This policy also applies to diplomates completing subspecialty fellowships with certification examinations (pediatric dermatology and dermatopathology).

## PASS RATES FOR ABD CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

	Number of Candidates	% Pass Rate
2007	396	86.4%
2008	413	91%
2009	421	91.4%
2010	412	91.9%
2011	419	89.7%

## GETTING READY FOR THE JULY 2012 CERTIFYING EXAMINATION, TAMPA, FLORIDA

The 2012 ABD certifying examination will be held July 16-19 and July 23-26 at the American Board of Pathology (ABP) testing center in Tampa, FL.

The ABP testing center is located in the same group of buildings as the Intercontinental Hotel (4860 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609; 800-235-4670 or 813-286-4050). Another hotel option (approximately 6-8 blocks away) is the Embassy Suites Tampa – Airport/Westshore (813-875-1555).

The Tampa International Airport is located approximately 3 miles (10-12 min.) from the ABP testing site. Taxi service is readily available and there is a complimentary airport shuttle to both hotels. When arriving at the Tampa airport, to call for the Intercontinental shuttle, dial 813-286-4400.

The American Board of Dermatology wants to reassure you that if weather causes a problem in Tampa, we will do our best to allow you to take the examination later in the month. We don't want to alarm you and we assume that everything will go as planned during the two weeks of test administration in July. However, we feel it's important to think ahead and make emergency contingency plans. In the event of an inclement weather threat, please check the ABD website ([www.abderm.org](http://www.abderm.org)) to learn of alternative arrangements. **In general, if the airport is open and planes are flying, the testing center will be open.**

*Below is information to help you get ready for the examination.*

Registration will begin at 7:15 am (Eastern Time). The examination will begin at 7:30 am and end at approximately 4:00 pm. You will need to present a photo ID at registration.

Candidates are not permitted to bring personal items in to the exam center. The only items permitted at workstations are jackets or sweaters and eyeglasses. Luggage, purses, food, water, books, papers, pens, pencils, pagers, cell phones, calculators, personal organizers, and watches of any type are prohibited. A pen will be provided at each workstation. Secure space is available outside of the examination room for storage of personal items. The ABD reserves the right to examine all items brought into the examination room. There is a clock in the exam room and there will be a timer on the computer monitors.

ABD and ABP staff will be present throughout the examination and will function as proctors.

### EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

#### SECTION 1

7:15 – 7:30 am Candidate seating and instructions. Each candidate will be assigned to a carrel with a computer and a microscope (4x, 10x, 20x, and 40x objectives). There will be lens paper, a scratch sheet for notes and a pen at each carrel.

7:30 – 9:10 am The first section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer. Each question will be associated with 5 multiple-choice foils of the one-best answer type. Your answers will be submitted on the computer.

You will work at your own pace for this session. The proctor will notify you when 30, 60 and 90 minutes have elapsed. If you finish early, you may leave the room, except during the last 10 minutes.

9:10 – 9:20 am

Break

#### SECTION 2

9:20 – 9:30 am Check in and instructions.

9:30 – 11:02 am Examination in Dermatopathology

The second section consists of 36 microscopic slides in dermatopathology with associated multiple-choice questions.

# EXAMINATION SCHEDULE CONTINUED

## SECTION 2 CONTINUED

The slides will be arranged in two cardboard slide trays, each containing 18 glass slides (1-18 and 19-36). You will have 45 minutes to examine each set of 18 slides. The proctor will inform you when there are two minutes left. At the end of 45 minutes you will exchange the tray you have completed with the second tray. You will not be allowed to review a slide tray that you have completed.

*You may leave the room when you have completed the questions.*

**Note that there will be no Virtual Dermatopathology section on this year's examination.**

11:02 am – 12:15 pm

Lunch (a list of several fast food and restaurant options available in the immediate vicinity will be provided).

## SECTION 3

12:15 – 12:25 pm

Check in and instructions.

12:25 – 2:05 pm

The third section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image multiple-choice questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer similar to Section 1 above.

If you finish early, you may leave the room, except during the last 10 minutes.

2:05 – 2:15 pm

Break

## SECTION 4

2:15 – 2:20 pm

Check in and instructions.

2:20 – 4:00 pm

The fourth section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image multiple-choice questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer. See information for Sections 1 and 3 above.

You may leave the room when you have completed the examination and turned in your scratch sheet and pen.

4:00 pm

Collect scratch sheets and dismiss.

*The results of the certifying examination will be placed in your Profile on the ABD website ([www.abderm.org](http://www.abderm.org)) 6-8 weeks after the examination. An email will notify you when the results are posted.*

## American Board of Dermatology

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