

AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY
POLICY ON CLINICALLY INACTIVE AND RETIRED STATUS

A diplomate with a time-limited certificate who is not clinically active has two options to remain certified:

- 1) The diplomate whose professional career has resulted in a discontinuation of patient care but who maintains a valid medical license may be classified as **Certified-Clinically Inactive**.
- 2) The diplomate who retires from practice may be classified as **Certified-Retired**.

Certified-Clinically Inactive

A diplomate who becomes clinically inactive should notify the American Board of Dermatology (ABD) in writing to request clinically inactive status. The ABD defines clinically inactive as not seeing patients or being involved with patient care, including dermatopathology, for a period of at least 12 months. The ABD shall place the diplomate on Certified-Clinically Inactive status, unless it appears that the diplomate may have engaged in an activity described in Article VII, section 3 of the ABD Bylaws. A diplomate in clinically inactive status shall automatically forfeit certification if he or she returns to regular clinical practice without reactivating ABD certification. To maintain the status of Certified-Clinically Inactive, the diplomate with a time-limited certificate must retain a valid medical license and remain active in the Maintenance of Certification in Dermatology (MOC) program with the exception of MOC Part4 (Evaluation of Clinical Practice).

A diplomate in Certified-Clinically Inactive status who wishes to return to active clinical practice may apply for reinstatement of full certification. Any application for reinstatement will be considered by the Requirements Committee (RC) of the ABD. If the RC determines to reinstate full certification, the certificate will be time-limited and the diplomate must agree to remain active in all parts of the MOC program. If the MOC examination has not been successfully completed within the previous 5 years, it will be necessary for the diplomate to take the MOC examination within 1 year. If the RC denies reinstatement of full certification, the diplomate may appeal to the Appeals Committee, in accordance with ABD Policy.

Certified-Retired

If the diplomate has no plans to return to active clinical practice, the diplomate may request status as Certified-Retired. Active participation in the MOC program and medical licensure are not required in the retired status. The diplomate should intend to remain in retired status. If a diplomate in Certified-Retired status wishes to re-enter clinical practice, the requirements for reinstatement and active participation in the MOC program detailed in the Policy for Lapsed Certificates will apply.

Approved by ABD BOD 6/13/09

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