



American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry

Recertification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC): Policy and Procedures

(Effective August 2, 2019) – Amended 9-11-20

INTRODUCTION: The American Board of Adolescent Psychiatry requires a clear policy and procedures regarding Recertification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) due to the past inconsistent application of MOC standards and collection of fees.

Diplomates will be offered the opportunity to recertify at the time their initial 10-year certification expires as well as every 5 years thereafter, assuming they have met all Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements listed below. Additionally, at the time of recertification, Diplomates will be assessed a recertification fee and will submit a clinical evaluation and summary along with their recertification application to be considered for recertification. Any Diplomat who does not recertify within 6 months of expiration will have their certification inactivated and in order to reactivate it, will need to re-apply and pass the certification examination unless extenuating circumstances are presented on appeal to the ABAP Board.

POLICY: ABAP requires all actively certified Diplomates to comply with Maintenance of Certification (MOC) policy and adhere to the procedures to remain actively certified. This allows ABAP to verify to any outside authority or inquiry that ABAP Diplomates are in good standing. Active Diplomates who have not complied with the MOC requirements are considered suspended until their MOC obligations have been rectified.

PROCEDURES

1. **Continuing Education:** For each year of ABAP certification (excluding the partial year of certification after initially passing the certification examination), Diplomates are required to attend and submit proof of a minimum of **10 hours of Category I CME per year** specific to child and/or adolescent/young adult psychiatry. Diplomates should submit this documentation at the time of billing of the annual MOC (end of the certification year). Diplomates who do not submit this documentation will be requested to

submit it for any/all years of the current certification period before the recertification review process begins.

- a. **Grandfather clause:** Since this policy was not actively maintained or enforced prior to 2017, any Diplomate eligible for initial recertification on or before 12-31-26 or subsequent recertification on or before 12-31-21 may substitute documentation of completion of an accredited comprehensive review course in child/adolescent and/or transitional aged youth psychiatry (minimum of 8 Category I CME hours) taken within the five years before their certification expires for the annual CME requirement.
2. **Annual Fee:** All currently certified Diplomates are required to pay an annual fee (currently \$50) as determined periodically by ABAP (as of the 2018 certification year). Diplomates have until July 1 of the following year to pay their annual MOC fees. After July 1, Diplomates will be placed in suspended status until the prior year's annual MOC fee has been paid.
 - a. **Grandfather clause:** For those Diplomates identified in the 1a grandfather clause above, any unpaid back MOC fees & reinstatement penalties will be waived at recertification if the Diplomate provides evidence of completion of the required accredited review course as described previously.
3. **Prior to 2018 Annual Fees:** Actively certified Diplomates have two alternatives for settling these fees if there are no verified records of prior annual fee payments:
 - a. At the time the current year's MOC fee is due (December), settlement of prior years' fees will be assessed also. Example: \$50 current year + balance owed for prior years in the current certification cycle.
 - b. At the time of recertification, prior years' fees must be settled before the recertification application will be processed.
4. **Suspended Status:** Any currently certified Diplomate placed on suspension for failure to comply with MOC requirements will:
 - a. Receive notification from ABAP of suspended status-
 - b. Not be verified as in good standing by ABAP when/if any request(s) from a credentialing body or facility be received. ABAP will respond to requests stating that the Diplomate is currently suspended.
 - c. Be required to pay a \$100 reinstatement fee after all MOC requirements are met and before reinstatement takes place.
 - d. Upon reinstatement, ABAP will send a reinstatement notification in writing, and confirm good standing status.

- e. Be exempt from the penalty if they demonstrate to ABAP that exceptional circumstances existed that prevented them from making timely payments of their annual fees or if grandfathered per 1a above.
5. **2019 Exception:** At this policy's inception and due to inconsistent records, current active Diplomates may not have received timely billing of 2018 MOC fees. Therefore, ABAP approved extending the suspension deadline to **October 1, 2019**.
6. **Fee Exemption for Active ASAP Members:** Beginning with the 2019 certification year, any active Diplomat who is an ASAP member in good standing that entire year will be exempt from paying annual MOC fees but will still be requested to submit their CME documentation annually. This exemption is subject to change/elimination at any time by the ASAP Governing Board.