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**American Board of Foot and  
Ankle Surgery  
Maintenance of Certification Program  
Effective February 11, 2016**



**American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery**

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**American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery  
Maintenance of Certification**

The Board of Directors of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) has approved a Maintenance of Certification program (MOC). This MOC program has replaced the current ABFAS Recertification process. Other certification boards, including all of the boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, have adopted an MOC program. The ABFAS believes this change to MOC will allow us to stay current with other certification boards and ensure continued competency among our diplomates.

**THE ABFAS MOC PROGRAM**

All diplomates issued a time-limited certificate are required to participate in the MOC program to maintain certification.

Diplomates issued a lifetime certificate are required to meet all components of the MOC, program except their examination will be administered as self-assessment.

MOC has replaced ABFAS Recertification as of February 11, 2016. The process will be implemented according to each diplomate's 10-year recertification cycle.

In summary, the ABFAS MOC program consists of the following requirements:

1. Maintain a valid, unrestricted podiatric license in the United States or Canada.
2. Maintain active surgical privileges at either an accredited hospital or surgical center.
3. Obtain 200 continuing education credits (Category 1 or CPME-approved), per 10-year cycle.
4. Complete a formalized, secure examination consisting of the fundamental diagnostic skills, medical knowledge, and clinical judgment to provide quality care during every 10-year cycle.

**Timeline for implementation of the MOC process:**

Has replaced recertification for diplomates holding time-limited certificates as of 2016.

Has replaced self-assessment for diplomates holding lifetime certificates as of 2016.

Implementation will occur in the diplomate's existing recertification examination cycle.

## ABFAS MOC Requirements

### I. **Maintain a valid, unrestricted podiatric license in the United States or Canada.**

All diplomates must maintain a valid and unrestricted license within the United States or Canada. The ABFAS will collect license validation information for each diplomate for the state(s) in which he/she practices. Currently, the ABFAS updates this information in conjunction with each state's licensing cycle. Diplomates are required to report to ABFAS any change in their licensing status.

### II. **Maintain active surgical privileges at an ABFAS-recognized accredited healthcare facility.**

### III. **Complete 200 hours of category 1 CME credits.**

Diplomates must participate in 200 hours of Category 1 or CPME-approved continuing education (CE) credits per 10-year cycle. All continuing education must be pertinent to the practice of podiatric medicine and/or surgery and cannot include practice management. Risk management credits are allowed. It is the diplomate's responsibility to obtain documentation of continuing education credits, not the organization that offers the program. Diplomates may submit continuing education credits only for programs in which they actively participated.

Diplomates must attest to their continuing education credits, and ABFAS will perform audits to ensure the accuracy of the submitted data.

Continuing education credit requirements will be prorated per year as follows:

2016 – 20 credits	2021 – 120 credits
2017 – 40 credits	2022 – 140 credits
2018 – 60 credits	2023 – 160 credits
2019 - 80 credits	2024 – 180 credits
2020 – 100 credits	All years after 2024 – 200 credits

Category 1 activities are those that have been approved by an accredited sponsor. An accredited sponsor may include, but [is not] limited to CPME, AMA, and AOA.

A diplomate's CME certificate should also state that the activity has been approved for Category 1 credit and name the institution or organization that is awarding the credit. If a diplomate has participated in Category 1 activities, the provider should provide a certificate of completion.

Acceptable certificates/documentation must include:

- Name of the licensee
- Name of the course
- Date of the course
- Number of credit hours earned
- Provider of the course
- Category type

**IV. Complete a formalized, secure examination that demonstrates the physician has the fundamental diagnostic skills, medical knowledge, and clinical judgment to provide quality care. This exam serves as the self-assessment examination for diplomates that have lifetime certificates.**

Diplomates must take a secure examination within 10-year cycles. The computerized examination is administered at regional, secure computer sites. Diplomates may take the examination in the eighth, ninth, or 10<sup>th</sup> year of their MOC cycle. Examinations taken and failed in the eighth or ninth year may be retaken. Failure of the examination in the 10<sup>th</sup> year will result in loss of certification. **Diplomates are encouraged not to wait until their 10<sup>th</sup> year to sit for the examination.**

The content of the examinations comprises:

**MOC FOOT AND ANKLE EXAMINATION**

(Self-assessment and MOC)

**Purpose:** The Foot and Ankle MOC Examination assesses current level of knowledge (strengths and weaknesses). For MOC purposes, the examination will have a measurable passing score. The same examination will also be utilized as the self-assessment examination for the diplomates who hold a lifetime certificate.

**Test Specifications:** The Foot and Ankle MOC examination involves diagnostic, intraoperative, and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Like the recertification examinations, the MOC Examination will emphasize generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner’s daily practice. However, because the self-assessment examination also serves as an educational tool, newer or more focused content areas may be included. The examination contains a maximum of 125 questions.

**Examination Content Map**

<b>Major Subject Area</b>	<b>%</b>
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	10
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	15
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	15
G. Complications	15
H. General Medical	10
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100</b>

## MOC FOOT SURGERY EXAMINATION

**Purpose:** The MOC Examination in Foot Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice of foot surgery.

**Test Specifications:** The MOC Examination in Foot Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient encompassing the foot and ankle. Intraoperative technical aspects will include reconstructive and non-reconstructive procedures of the forefoot and non-reconstructive procedures of the rearfoot/ankle. The examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner's daily practice. The examination contains a maximum of 125 computer-adaptive administered questions.

### Examination Content Map

Major Subject Area	%
A. Problem-focused History and Physical	10
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	15
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	15
G. Complications	15
H. General Medical	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**MOC RECONSTRUCTIVE REARFOOT/ANKLE SURGERY EXAMINATION**

**Purpose:** The MOC Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle Surgery measures the clinical surgical knowledge, skills, and judgment associated with the maintenance of an acceptable level of practice.

**Test Specifications:** The MOC Examination in Reconstructive Rearfoot/Ankle Surgery involves diagnostic and perioperative care of the podiatric surgical patient who requires reconstructive rearfoot and ankle procedures. This examination emphasizes generally accepted procedures and technology related to the practitioner’s daily practice. The fixed-form examination contains a maximum of 100 questions.

**Examination Content Map**

<b>Major Subject Area</b>	<b>%</b>
B. Diagnostic Studies/Medical Imaging	10
C. Differential Diagnosis	10
D. Surgical Principles	15
E. Surgical Procedures/Techniques	25
F. Procedural Perioperative Management	20
G. Complications	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>