



From the American
Board of Family Medicine

Ann Fam Med 2011;9:180. doi:10.1370/afm.1235.

ABFM Introduces Important Enhancements to MC-FP

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) has always maintained that it would listen carefully to feedback and concerns from Diplomates and would continuously make improvements to Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) to simplify and streamline the process, target it to practice needs, and create flexibility in how MC-FP requirements are met.

As of 2011, the ABFM introduced several important enhancements to MC-FP. These changes will affect only those Diplomates certifying or recertifying in 2011 and beyond. The first of these enhancements is that, beginning with those Diplomates that certify or recertify in the summer of 2011, the examination will be temporally unlinked from the MC-FP cycle. While at the present time, MC-FP culminates with the administration of the examination at the end of the cycle, with this change it may be taken at any point in time during the MC-FP cycle, and the results will be valid for up to 10 years.

Secondly, Diplomates certifying in 2011 and after will be allowed to choose how they wish to complete their Part II (SAMs) and Part IV (PPMs, MIMMs, approved alternatives) requirements during each 3-year stage. Each module will be assigned a point value, and each Diplomate will need to accumulate 50 MC-FP points every 3 years. How this is accomplished is up to the Diplomate as long as the combination of completed activity includes at least 1 ABFM Self-Assessment Module (SAM) and 1 Part IV quality improvement activity. The basic requirements will be the same for each 3-year period.

Additionally, Diplomates must continuously meet the requirements of all 4 parts of MC-FP to remain certified. With this new format in place, each Diplomate will simply need to meet four requirements during each 3-year stage of the MC-FP cycle to maintain certification:

1. Maintain medical license and keep current record with ABFM (Part I).
2. Complete Part II and Part IV activities totaling 50 MC-FP points with a minimum 1 ABFM Self-Assessment Module (SAM) and 1 Part IV quality improvement activity (Diplomates will continue to receive CME for this activity).

3. Meet ABFM CME requirements of 150 CME credits per stage (Part II).
4. Perform successfully on the examination every 10 years (Part III).

Lastly, the ABFM is awaiting approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to begin issuing certificates without end dates beginning in the summer. The validity of the new certificates without end dates will be continuous as long as the requirements for the MC-FP program are adhered to and the Diplomate successfully completes the examination every 10 years.

Again, these enhancements will only affect those Diplomates certifying or recertifying in 2011 and beyond. For questions regarding these changes or MC-FP, Diplomates may contact the ABFM Support Center at 877-223-7437 or via e-mail at help@theabfm.org.

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From the Society of Teachers
of Family Medicine

Ann Fam Med 2011;9:180-181. doi:10.1370/afm.1241.

Family Medicine Advocacy—It Depends on All of Us!

Advocating for our members and promoting the value of family medicine to legislators and policymakers is an important priority for STFM. To do this, STFM gets involved in legislative and regulatory issues that affect our members and family medicine. We also strive to keep our members informed about Washington's legislative and regulatory activities through e-mail alerts and *The Briefing Room*, a blog-style Web update that you'll find on <http://www.stfm.org>. Members can learn even more about advocacy at the annual Family Medicine Congressional Conference held in May in Washington DC.

On the STFM Web site, <http://www.stfm.org/> advocacy, you'll find links that will give you details of STFM position on the various topics. The links will also provide you with the background and updates on the issues. You'll even find position papers and letters to help you be an effective advocate for academic family medicine.

STFM conducts its legislative activities through the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM). STFM works with CAFM because it allows us to collaborate with other academic family medicine groups, making