



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL PATHOLOGY

INCORPORATED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - 1948

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Certification Maintenance

It is the position of the ABOMP that oral pathology-related continuing education and practice experience are required to maintain knowledge after successful completion of the certification process.

The Certification Maintenance (CM) program is directed primarily toward those oral and maxillofacial pathologists with time-limited certificates (certificate received in 2004 or after). The process will be open, however, to all certified diplomates. A diplomate who holds a non-time-limited certificate will not put that certificate in jeopardy by participating in the CM program.

Certification Maintenance will be based on three components:

- 1. Evidence of professional standing.** Diplomates of the ABOMP must maintain a current license or a teaching license to practice dentistry in at least one jurisdiction of the United States, its territories, or Canada. Diplomates who do not have a current license or teaching license but have a faculty appointment at an accredited dental or medical school may substitute evidence of academic appointment or standing. Diplomates practicing outside the United States or Canada must maintain an equivalent license to practice dentistry issued by their respective jurisdictions.
- 2. Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and involvement in periodic self-assessment (organized continuing education [CE] and self-learning).** Each diplomate must maintain a minimum of 40 hours every 2 years of pathology-related continuing education sponsored by the AAOMP, or by an ADA/CERP-approved provider, or by an organization or institution accredited by the AMA Council on Medical Education. Diplomates practicing outside the United States must maintain 40 hours of equivalent continuing education every two years. As many as 5 hours per year may be earned as faculty participating in these CE programs.

As part of those 40 hours, each diplomate must participate each year in at least one diagnostic oral and maxillofacial pathology self-assessment program acceptable to the ABOMP. Acceptable programs are:

- 1) ABOMP Head and Neck Case Review Program
- 2) Registry of Oral Pathology Case of the Month at AFIP
- 3) Temple University Slide Exchange
- 4) AAOMP Continuing Competency Assurance Examination

3. Evidence of cognitive expertise (certification maintenance examination). The CM examination is mandatory, will be given annually at the AAOMP meeting, and must be taken no later than ten years after initial (or most recent) certification. The examination may be taken as soon as seven years after the most recent certification giving the diplomate the opportunity to take the CM examination up to four times. The exact nature of the CM examination is under development. However, the exam will contain questions related to:

- Fundamental knowledge
- Current and clinically valid practice-related knowledge, including information new to the field designed to evaluate the diplomate's lifelong learning and self-assessment experience.

The CM examination will be a closed-book assessment based on knowledge that a competent oral pathologist would be expected to possess without access to reference material.

If a diplomate is successful in the CM process, a new certificate will be issued. A diplomate will be allowed to sit for the certification maintenance examination in years 7 - 10 of his/her 10-year certification period. Regardless of the date at which the CM process is completed, the anniversary dates for recertification will be derived from the initial certification date. For example, a diplomate who is initially certified in 2004 and completes all CM requirements in 2011 will be issued a new certificate in 2014. That certificate will expire in 2024. If a diplomate does not successfully complete all requirements of the CM process, including passing the certification maintenance examination, the diplomate's Board certification will expire 10 years after issuance and he/she will no longer be listed as a diplomate. These individuals may continue to participate in CM activities and may request to be recertified when the CM requirements have been satisfied. Such a request must occur within five years of loss of certification. If such an individual wishes to regain certification after five years, he/she must retake the initial certification examination after completing one additional year of training in a CODA-approved oral and maxillofacial pathology training program.

Diplomates with time-limited certificates who are granted emeritus status will not be required to participate in CM activities, but emeritus diplomates who wish to return to active diplomate status, will be required to participate in all parts of the CM process and complete the recertification examination within one year of returning to active status.

Application and Fee: The fee for the certification maintenance examination is \$500. The application form is available at www.abomp.org by clicking on the “Certification Maintenance” link.

Application Deadline: Application and fee must be received by Feb 1st of the year a diplomate wishes to take the certification maintenance exam.

Appeals Procedure: A candidate who fails a certification maintenance examination may request that the examination score be recalculated to determine whether clerical errors were made at the time of grading. Such requests must be made in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of the results of the examination to the candidate. Members of the Test Construction Committee will recalculate the candidate's score and report the results to the Board for its action. The report of the Test Construction Committee will be considered final and a second recalculation will not be considered. An appropriate administrative fee will be charged for the review.

Updated 11/2009