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The AMERICAN BOARD of
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Q. *Is there a review course for the Cognitive Examination?*

A. The American Association of Neurological Surgeons has developed a course that will be given every February in Atlanta. The ABNS has no input into or association with the AANS course.

Q. *When will the Key Cases be available?*

A. Key Cases, information to be logged on ten consecutive cases corresponding to one of fourteen subjects, should be up and running on the web in early 2007.

Q. *When will a Communication Assessment Tool be available?*

A. CHAPS is being developed by a consortium, including the ABMS. Once it has been completed, it will be added to the ABNS MOC requirements. Likewise, a module on Patient Safety is under development and will eventually be added.

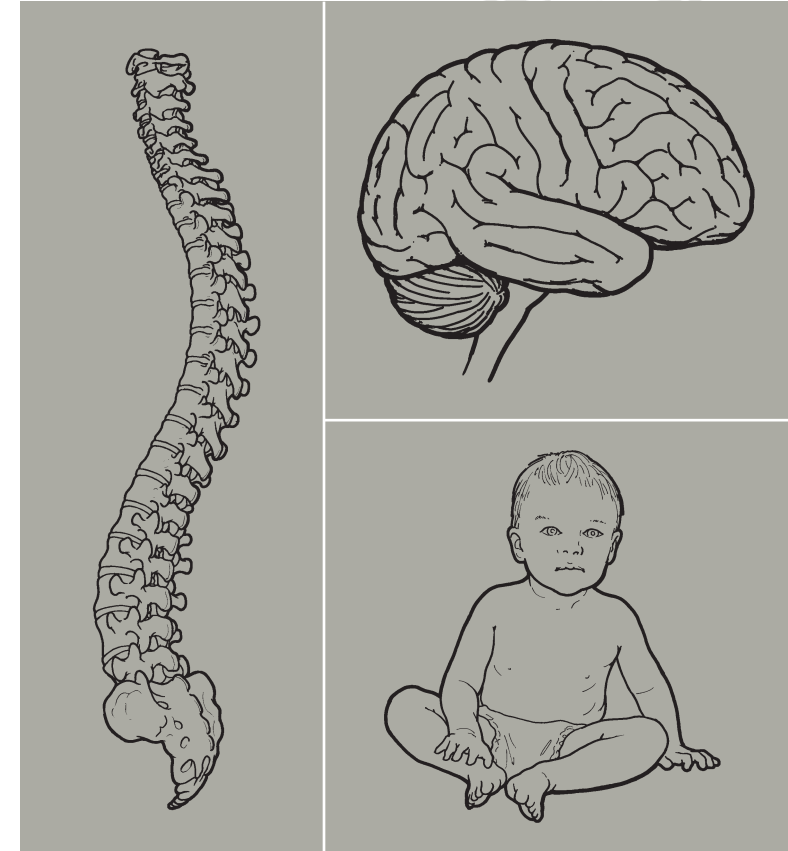
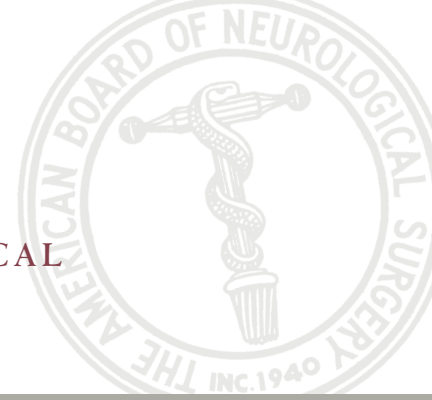
Q. *Will the Communication Assessment Tool protect patient confidentiality?*

A. All aspects of the ABNS MOC program protect patient confidentiality.

Q. *Does the ABNS have any idea when regulatory bodies will require everyone to participate in MOC?*

A. The possibility is being actively investigated by several groups at the present time. State medical licensing boards are considering legislation to require MOC participation. Also, hospitals are expected to adopt requirements to maintain privileges. Third party payors are interested, too.

The
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MOC FAQ's

Q. *How can I find out when I'm scheduled to start MOC?*

A. The ABNS initiated its MOC program in January 2006 and is phasing it in over three years. Individuals certified in 1999 through 2004 will start in different years and have abbreviated cycles. The first full 10-year cycle began in January 2006 for Diplomates certified in 2005. For those certified in the future, MOC will begin the first January after certification. To find out when you should submit your online application, see the MOC brochures at the Board's website www.abns.org or e-mail Erica Cruz at abns.moc@tmh.tmc.edu. For Diplomates with non-time limited Certificates who chose to participate, the 10-year cycle will begin in January of the year they submit an application.

Q. *Since I have a non-time-limited Certificate, am I required to participate in MOC?*

A. Every Diplomate is strongly encouraged to participate in MOC. For those whose Certificates were issued prior to 1999, it is not mandatory by the ABNS, and their Certificates will not expire irregardless of involvement in MOC. State and local credentialing committees, however, are evaluating their requirements for participation.

Q. *Can I browse MOC first and then decide whether I want to participate?*

A. There are a variety of places to gather information. At www.abns.org you can find the MOC Handbook and several brochures. The ABNS Newsletters found there also give details on what to expect.

Q. *How do I get started?*

A. E-mail Erica at abns.moc@tmh.tmc.edu to state that you want to enroll. She will return your e-mail with your username and password, as well as instructions on how to begin.

Q. *How do I log on?*

A. Visit www.abns.org and click Maintenance of Certification under the Site Links tab to the left. Then, simply click the blue MyMOC Login button. Take a moment to read through the Checklist, which should help you gather the information you will need to provide on your application.

Q. *I have filled out most of my application, but some hospitals where I practice do not have e-mail addresses. What do I do?*

A. E-mail Erica at abns.moc@tmh.tmc.edu giving her the name of the hospital, contact name, mailing address, phone and fax numbers, and the dates of your privileges. Once she has added it to your application, she will e-mail you so that you may look it over and submit the application if you approve.

Q. *How can I find out if you received a response from my Chief of Staff or if my hospital privileges have been verified?*

A. Whenever you wish, just log into MyMOC through www.abns.org and view the status of your progress through the program:

- Proof of Professional Standing
- Life-Long Learning and Self-Assessment
- Performance in Practice
- Annual Fee Payments

Q. *What if I am delinquent in some of the components of MOC?*

A. Diplomates who have submitted online applications but are behind in parts of a 3-year mini-cycle will have six months to fulfill all of the requirements of the previous mini-cycle while completing the requirements of the new one. Diplomates who have not participated at all in a 3-year mini-cycle will be notified within six months of the end of that cycle. To continue they must pay a re-entry fee, take the SANS examination, submit 10 Key Cases, and complete the CAHPS survey within the next six months. This type of omission may occur only once in each 10-year cycle.

Q. *Who determined how many CME credits are required for MOC?*

A. The number of credits was decided by the ABNS and approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Q. *Can I use Ortho-Spine credits for CME?*

A. A list of Principles and Eligible Courses/Activities for CME credits is at www.abns.org. It is a downloadable PDF found under Maintenance of Certification.

Q. *How often may I take SANS? Do I get credit every time I take it?*

A. SANS is a self-assessment examination designated by the ABNS as a component of MOC. It must be taken once (but only once) in every 3-year mini-cycle. Besides fulfilling one of the MOC requirements, it adds 24 CME credits each mini-cycle.

Q. *Where do I take SANS?*

A. SANS is developed by the Congress of Neurological Surgery and updated approximately every three years. It is available on line at their website, www.cns.org.

Q. *When may I take the ABNS Cognitive Examination?*

A. The clinically based Cognitive Examination, which will be given each March, may be taken in the eighth, ninth, and tenth years of the MOC cycle. It consists of 210 multiple choice questions. One hundred fifty-five are on general neurosurgery. The examinee then selects a module on Complex Spine Surgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery, or more General Neurosurgery for the final 55. Since the ABNS is phasing in MOC, Diplomates certified in 1999 will be eligible to take the first Examination to be given in 2007.