

Our Shared Concern – HRS Members Losing Their ABIM certification

Recently, we have heard from a growing number of members that they have either been listed as “not certified” or are at risk of being listed as “not certified” by ABIM despite having passed the recertification exam within the last 10 years. This is due to the requirement that all diplomates must earn 100 points every five years in addition to passing an assessment to maintain certification.

There has been some confusion among members who are not participating in MOC that they would be listed as “Certified, Not Participating in MOC.” This had been the case; however, for those last certified in 2014 or later, certification will be forfeited after 5 years of non-participation in MOC.

To reiterate, if you certified or last recertified after 2014 and you have not been participating in MOC, you will be listed by ABIM as “Not Certified” after 5 years. While this has been communicated by the ABIM since 2014, we are now seeing the first of our members being negatively impacted by this requirement.

We are very concerned about members losing their certification and the fairness of this process. We are working with our leadership, and will be working with other cardiology specialty societies and directly with the ABIM to address this concern.

As a Society that has been created by members and for members, we continuously evaluate and advocate for positions that best represent the interests and needs of the membership. HRS positions will change over time as the opinions of our members change, but our commitment to serving members first and foremost does not.

We have been in discussions with ABIM in recent years in order to reform the MOC, resulting in some modifications for our members. We have also worked with other medical societies such as ACC, AMA, SCAI and HFSA to lend a stronger voice for our mutual concerns. We now need to consider new approaches to further support our membership.

In the coming weeks and months we will keep you informed as we reconsider our position and approach on this topic.

In the meantime, due to the complexity of the ABIM rules and a wide array of individual member circumstances, we advise that you directly contact an ABIM representative to understand the specific steps you can take to avoid revoking your certification or reinstatement.

As a reminder, HRS offers MOC points for education to assure MOC education is as beneficial as possible to those who are required to participate. If you attended HRS 2019, you can claim up to 23 MOC points for having attended the meeting and even more from online activities when

Heart Rhythm on Demand 2019 and Summits on Demand 2019 are available in June on our new learning platform www.heartrhythm365.org.

We support multiple pathways for members to maintain their certification and encourage members to seek their MOC points from any source they choose. There is a cost for Heart Rhythm on Demand if you did not attend Scientific Sessions. Going forward, we are committed to offering at least 20 pts per year of MOC to our members at no additional cost in order to meet the MOC requirements. We will let you know the details as soon as that benefit is available. We intend to significantly expand our available CME and assure as much of our CME as possible is eligible for MOC in alignment with our position that lifelong learning or learning that you choose to do will count toward your MOC.

This continues to be a challenging issue for our members and as long as it is, we will continue working on behalf of our members.