

Dear Member:

We are writing to provide information of interest regarding cardiologists' American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) certification status.

On January 1, 2014, ABIM Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements changed. In addition to the 10-year assessment requirement, diplomates who wanted to maintain their certification were required to complete 100 MOC points every 5 years. The end of the first 5-year period for many diplomates was December 31, 2018.

Early in 2018, ABIM noted that a number of diplomates were at risk of missing the 100-point requirement. ABIM initiated an intense effort to communicate with these diplomates. This resulted in a high percentage of cardiologists across all specialties obtaining enough points to remain certified before ABIM updated its public reporting in February 2019. When looked at through the lens of specific certificates, 94% of cardiovascular medicine certificates, 88% of electrophysiology certificates, 84% of interventional certificates and 100% of heart failure certificates were held by diplomates who met the 100-point threshold. Additionally, physicians who had not met their points requirement saw their certification status change to "Not Certified."

The leadership of the four major cardiovascular specialty societies – the American College of Cardiology (ACC), Heart Rhythm Society (HRS), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), and Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) – realized that many cardiologists who had intended to remain certified were somehow unaware of the new process and missed the deadline. Therefore, they initiated a call with the ABIM leadership to discuss opportunities for those cardiologists to bring their certification into good standing.

If you are one of those whose certification status has changed – or if you'd like to confirm what you need to do next – please follow these steps:

1. You should log into the [ABIM Physician Portal](#) of the ABIM website to learn more about your specific MOC requirements .
  - a. Once logged in, red icons will show areas that are in need of attention.
  - b. You can review your specific assessment, point, and attestation requirements by selecting "Menu", "Home/Status" and then "My Assessments & Certificates" or "My MOC Points."
  - c. You can also update your contact information to ensure you are receiving ABIM communications by selecting "Profile", then "My Profile" and expanding "Contact Information."
2. If you are not certified because you need MOC points, you can become certified again almost immediately by completing the required number of outstanding points. ABIM's collaboration with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) provides the opportunity for ABIM Board Certified physicians to earn MOC points for thousands of accredited CME activities, many offered by one of the cardiology societies. Once you complete an activity, the CME provider will collect and submit your completed information so that ABIM may award your ABIM MOC points. (Note: the individual CME provider determines the timeframe and deadline for claiming MOC points.)
3. Multiple other opportunities to earn MOC points are available, and some of these MOC points are provided free of charge:

- a. Activities are available on the Heart Failure Society of America website at: [https://www.hfsa.org/events\\_education](https://www.hfsa.org/events_education)
  - b. On the ACC website, 202 medical knowledge activities, offering 158 points, can be accessed by any cardiologist, free of charge at the [ACC Online Learning Catalog](#).
  - c. [ABIM Annual Updates](#) are available at the ABIM website
4. If your hospital, payer or employer credentialing committees have raised concerns, ABIM will work with you to provide a letter for you to share with them that outlines what you need to remedy any temporary loss of certification. To discuss such a letter with ABIM, please see the contact information below.

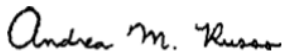
We hope that this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions about your specific ABIM status, please contact ABIM directly at 1-800-441-ABIM or [request@abim.org](mailto:request@abim.org) . For additional information about medical knowledge opportunities, please contact the Heart Failure Society of America at: [www.hfsa.org](http://www.hfsa.org) .

We know how important successfully maintaining certification is to you; all of our organizations are working together to offer you the smoothest possible path to make that happen.

Sincerely yours,



Richard J. Kovacs, MD, FACC  
ACC President



Andrea M. Russo, MD, FHRS  
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