



Navigating Maintenance of Certification with ACR Tools

Over 55% of ACR members have time-limited rheumatology certificates, meaning they must enroll and complete the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification Program to maintain certification in rheumatology. For those physicians, it is essential to understand the recertification process. The following Q&A outlines key points on how the ACR can assist rheumatologists in navigating the process.

Should I participate?

To remain board certified, internists or rheumatologists who were certified in 1990 or later need to recertify every ten years. *You do not need to maintain certification in internal medicine to recertify in rheumatology.*

What do I need to do to maintain my certificate?

The first step for recertification is to enroll with the ABIM for the Maintenance of Certification Program. There are three components required for maintenance of certification:

1. Be licensed and in good standing
2. Earn 100 self-evaluation points*, which must include:
 - 20 points from medical knowledge
 - 20 points from practice performance
 - 60 points from either medical knowledge, practice performance or both
3. Pass the secured exam

*If you are renewing multiple certificates, no additional self-evaluation points are required, provided that the 100 points you have earned are valid at the time each certificate expires. However, you will have to take multiple recertification exams.

Below is an example of how an ACR member can earn their 100 Points of Self-Evaluation through ACR Maintenance of Certification tools:

- CARE 2008 – 20 points self-evaluation medical knowledge points
- CARE 2009 – 30 points self-evaluation medical knowledge points
- CARE 2010 – 30 self-evaluation medical knowledge points
- AIM: RA or AIM: Gout – 20 self-evaluation of practice performance points
- ACR Annual Scientific Meeting Pre-Conference Course on November 6, 2010 – that covers the 2010 ABIM Update in Rheumatology which can be completed for 10 self-evaluation medical knowledge points
- ACR Maintenance of Certification Course March 18-20, 2011 in Fort Worth, Texas – includes a complimentary subscription to CARE 2010 which can be completed for 30 self-evaluation medical knowledge points

ACR tools that qualify for ABIM medical knowledge points



Continuing
Assessment
Review
Evaluation

ACR CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

self-assessment program®

The Continuing Assessment Review Evaluation or CARE program is an online self-assessment tool that includes relevant clinical case-based questions on the content areas the ABIM uses for the rheumatology recertification exam. CARE 2009, 2008 and 2007 are now available – each version offers MOC points in medical knowledge and includes answer rationales, images and over 100 educational reference links. **No questions are repeated!** CARE 2010 is scheduled for release this September. Visit <http://www.rheumatology.org/education/recertification/index.asp> for more information and to register.

ACR tools that qualify for ABIM practice performance points



Assess, Improve, Measure, or AIM is a series of practice improvement modules designed specifically for rheumatologists. AIM offers physicians a tool to assess and improve their practice. After submitting data, physicians will receive an automated report supported by evidence-based quality measures that will enable them to identify their practice's strengths and areas for improvement. In addition, the physician will develop and implement an improvement plan to assess its impact of practice changes through chart re-measurement. AIM: RA and AIM: Gout are now available. Upon completion of either program, participants will be able to earn 20 MOC points in practice performance. Visit <http://www.rheumatology.org/education/recertification/index.asp> for more information and to register.

Why should I use the ACR's tools?

The ACR tools are the only rheumatologist-led recertification resources designed specifically for rheumatologists that offers Maintenance of Certification points and CME credit. Each program respects the resources and constraints of a busy physician/practice.

Are these initiatives relevant if I am not required to recertify?

One of the goals of the ABIM Maintenance of Certification process is to introduce physicians to the competencies of practice-based learning and systems-based practice. Acquiring these competencies begins by understanding and applying quality measurement to improve patient care.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the ACR recertification web page at <http://www.rheumatology.org/education/recertification/index.asp> for more information. If you have any questions for the ABIM about Maintenance of Certification, please contact the ABIM at 1-800-441-2246 or visit the web site at www.abim.org.

Additional ACR Study Tools



The Rheumatology Image Bank is the most comprehensive online collection of rheumatology-related images in the world. Serving as a centralized resource for clinicians and researchers, the Rheumatology Image Bank provides invaluable assistance in self-study. As some ABIM questions require interpretation of pictorial material such as histologic and radiographic findings in rheumatic disease, the Rheumatology Image Bank is a great resource to test your knowledge. Explore the more than 1,500 images of rheumatic diseases ranging from common conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and gout to rare conditions including multicentric reticulohistiocytosis, relapsing polychondritis and the various heritable disorders of the connective tissue. Visit <http://images.rheumatology.org> to begin viewing this extensive collection.

ACR SessionSelect

Your source for educational sessions, online

SessionSelect is the ACR's online resource that allows users the flexibility to connect and view a library of recorded educational presentations and scientific discoveries presented at some of the ACR/ARHP educational conferences and professional meetings. This tool offers access to the most relevant information and research pertaining to rheumatic diseases. Looking for additional opportunities for self-assessment?

Visit <http://acr.peachnewmedia.com/store/misc/acrselect.php> to connect to this convenient library.