

FAQs (continued)

Will OCC change requirements or the process of initial certification?

There are currently no planned changes to the initial certification process.

When will OCC go into effect?

OCC will go into effect for all AOA specialty boards by Jan. 1, 2013.

What if I have a lifetime certificate?

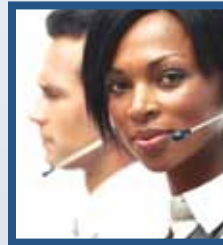
If you have a lifetime certification, you will not be required to participate in OCC at this time. We do strongly encourage your participation, particularly as more states begin to require a maintenance of certification process in order to maintain licensure.



THE AOA IS HERE TO HELP YOU

While you transition into the Osteopathic Continuous Certification process, the AOA will provide you with numerous tools and resources to ensure that you are prepared for the change and kept up to date on any OCC developments.

Visit the OCC section of the AOA's website for additional resources at www.osteopathic.org.



Questions?

Questions regarding your certification status and/or general OCC information should be directed to the AOA's Division of Certification at (800) 621-1773 ext. 8266.

OCC Division of Certification
OSTEOPATHIC CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATION

NEW!



Introduction to the AOA Osteopathic Continuous Certification Process



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS

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OCC—Assessing Quality. Ensuring Excellence.

WHY OCC?

Certification is important. As a certified physician, you've voluntarily committed to life-long learning, higher standards and to practicing the highest quality patient care. The health care system in the United States is evolving, and the single certification/recertification examination model at given intervals is no longer the competitive standard, or the standard demanded by the public.



By maintaining your AOA certification, you have already demonstrated your commitment to excellence. However, with the advent of ever rigorous quality models, the AOA and its specialty certifying boards, under the direction of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS), are developing Osteopathic Continuous

Certification (OCC) to help you meet and exceed industry and regulatory requirements.

The BOS has mandated that each specialty certifying board implement OCC for its specialty by Jan. 1, 2013. If you currently hold a time-limited certification, you will be required to participate in the following five components to maintain your certification. You are already participating in four of the five components.

OCC COMPONENTS

(Component 4 is the only NEW requirement for certification)

Component 1: Unrestricted Licensure

Physicians who are board certified by the AOA must hold a valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine in one of the 50 states. In addition, adherence to the AOA's Code of Ethics is required as part of this component.

Component 2: Lifelong Learning/Continuing Medical Education (CME)

All DOs must fulfill a minimum of 120 hours of CME credit during each three-year CME cycle. Of these, 50 hours must be in their specialty area. Self-assessment activities will be designated by each of the AOA's 18 approved specialty boards.

Component 3: Cognitive Assessment

Diplomates must successfully complete the psychometrically valid and proctored examinations, as developed by their specialty certifying board, which assess a physician's specialty medical knowledge as well as core competencies in the provision of health care.

Component 4: Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement

Physicians must engage in continuous quality improvement through comparison of personal practice performance measured against national standards for his or her medical specialty.

Component 5: Continuous AOA Membership

Membership in the professional osteopathic community provides physicians with online technology, practice management assistance, national advocacy for DOs and the profession, professional publications and continuing medical education opportunities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I participate in OCC?

OCC serves as an assessment tool to enhance the quality of health care.

Benefits of participating in OCC include:

- higher reimbursement rates from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- continual knowledge and skill improvement
- quality assurance to the public

How will OCC affect me?

Component 4: Practice Performance Assessment and Improvement is the only new component to the certification process. All other components are already a part of the current osteopathic recertification process. While each specialty board will have specific requirements and procedures for Component 4, in general, this component will require a physician to assess their current practice performance against established benchmarks.

How much will this cost me in time, money, and resources?

More information regarding OCC requirements will be forthcoming from the certifying boards as planning continues. Every effort is being made to streamline the process so that resources are utilized efficiently, to make the OCC process as painless as possible, while still ensuring that the standards demanded by the public and regulatory bodies are met.

