



Montana Academy of Family Physicians

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SAM Study Groups

FAQs - ABFM Maintenance of Certification - Self Assessment Module (SAM)

What is SAM?

SAM is an important part of the ABFM's Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) process. A SAM consists of 2 parts: a knowledge assessment and clinical simulation.

When do I need to take a SAM?

The ABFM's roll-out of MC-FP was designed to gradually transition all Diplomates into the program by 2010, enrolling all physicians who certify or recertify as they successfully pass the examination.

Under the current MC-FP program, each certified Diplomate must successfully complete a series of modules in three separate 3-year windows (called Stages). Completing these requirements in a timely manner within the first two Stages will allow Diplomates to extend the life of their certificate from seven to ten years. If Diplomates are unable or choose to NOT meet the requirements of Stage One and/or Stage Two, the 7-year certificate remains valid, but six Part II modules and one Part IV module must be successfully completed within the seven years preceding the Part III Cognitive Examination. To be considered current in MC-FP on the 7-year cycle, a Diplomate must complete one module per year. In addition to completing the modules, Diplomates are required to maintain a valid, full, and unrestricted license and obtain 300 credit hours of CME during the six years prior to the cognitive examination.

What is a MAFP SAM Study Group?

Physicians who have entered the ABFM Maintenance of Certification cycle come together to complete the knowledge assessment section for the MC-FP SAM requirement. Facilitated by expert faculty, this group works through the 60 core competency questions assessing, reviewing, and deciding as a group the best answer.

After completing the session, MAFP staff report your answers to the ABFM and you are guaranteed a passing grade. No computer entry by you is needed.

What do I have to do after attending a SAM Study Group to finish the Self Assessment Module (Part II)?

Your next step is to go to the [ABFM Web site](#), pay the necessary fees, and complete the clinical simulation section. The clinical simulation section presents patient care scenarios corresponding to the topic module. Now you have completed Part II of the MC-FP.

How do I earn CME?

Fifteen (15) CME credits are awarded for successfully completing each Part II Module. 15 credits will be automatically posted to your AAFP account upon completion of the module.

What are the other requirements for Maintenance of Certification?

Please visit the [ABFM Web site](#) for more information.

The MAFP Sam Study Group will be on "Childhood Illness" and will convene on Wednesday afternoon, June 16, and finish on Thursday morning, June 17. Use the online registration link to sign up.