



NATIONAL  
BOARD OF  
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY, INC.

*Setting standards for knowledge in Echocardiography*

## **Maintenance of Certification status in Echocardiography (MOCE) FAQ's**

### **What is the Maintenance of Certification status in Echocardiography (MOCE)?**

- MOCE is a user-friendly, lifelong learning platform for all National Board of Echocardiography (NBE) Diplomates that promotes and supports personalized knowledge acquisition, assessment, and demonstration of proficiencies with minimal time commitment.
- Questions will focus on practical knowledge in echocardiography, typical of a general echocardiography practice.
- MOCE represents NBE's transition from our static recertification exam every ten years (ReASCE, RePTE, and ReBasic PTE) to a continuing maintenance of certification status available "on-demand" on mobile devices and desktop computers.
- Research has shown longitudinal assessment is the best way to maintain in-depth knowledge and proficiency in their specialty.
- Diplomates must enroll in the longitudinal learning assessment, attest to holding an active medical license, confirm the number of echocardiograms read, and participate in continuing medical education credits.

### **Who qualifies to enroll in MOCE?**

- Anyone who became an NBE diplomate at any time is eligible to enroll in MOCE. Those who passed an NBE exam without achieving board certification status should refer to "Maintenance of Testamur status" frequently asked questions.
- Beginning in 2024, diplomates must enroll in the MOCE program the following calendar year after passing their exam. Example: Those who become board-certified by passing their exam in 2024 will be required to enter MOCE in 2025.
- For those who became board (re-)certified 2014-2023, enrollment in MOCE is not necessary to maintain certification status for the entire 10-year duration post-certification period, consistent with what was expected at the time of registration for the exam. These individuals are encouraged to enroll in MOCE before their 10-year expiration, and their participation in MOCE will be free of charge until ten years lapse since passing their last exam.
  - Example: those diplomates who pass the NBE's Advanced PTEeXAM, Basic PTEeXAM, or ASCeXAM exams in July 2014 or earlier will be required to enter MOCE in 2024 and begin paying a nominal fee of \$85 annually.

- Example: Those diplomates who pass the NBE's PTE or ASCE exams in July 2019 can voluntarily participate MOCE in 2024 - 2028 but be required to enter MOCE and begin paying a nominal fee of \$85 annually beginning in 2029.
- For those diplomates who passed their last NBE exam ten or more years ago, enrollment in MOCE will be required to maintain their certification status. These individuals will attest to having a valid medical license and are practicing echocardiography and be charged a nominal fee of \$85 annually. They will be required to answer 48 questions annually on our new mobile platform. There will be a one-time "grace period" for those diplomates who passed their last NBE exam ten or more years ago to enroll in MOCE without retaking the certification examination. Those who don't enroll in our new Maintenance of Certification status in Echocardiography before December 31, 2027, will need to retake the initial certification exam and participate in MOCE to be considered as "Maintaining Certification status in Echocardiography."

### **How do I get started?**

- To enter MOCE and maintain your certification status, please refer to our website for additional details closer to the launch of the longitudinal learning assessment.

### **What is the cost of MOCE?**

- MOCE is \$85 per year, due each January.

### **How many questions will there be?**

- 48 total questions
- 12 questions per quarter
  - Maximum 12 per day

### **Can I answer all 48 questions in the last quarter of the year?**

- MOCE was designed to be answered over time rather than all at once to promote continuous learning and knowledge retention. However, if you are behind and need to answer all 48 questions in the year's final quarter, you can only answer a maximum of 12 per day.
- You must answer 48 MOCE questions annually by 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 31 and maintain a performance standard defined by a Measurement Decision Theory (MDT) value of  $\geq 0.20$ .
- Measurement Decision Theory (MDT) estimates the probability that candidates are keeping their knowledge up-to-date based on their pattern of responses to questions.

### **What if I do not answer all 48 questions in a year or maintain my MDT value $>0.2$ ?**

- Any unanswered questions at the end of the year will be considered incorrect and will negatively impact your MDT score.
- A diplomate not fulfilling the yearly requirements will receive a probationary status for the following year.
- Diplomates who fail to enroll and fulfill the minimum requirements during the probationary year will be designated as "Inactive" status the following year.
- Diplomates designated as "Inactive" MUST pass the initial exam again to become designated as "Maintenance of Certification status in Echocardiography."

**What are other requirements for maintaining certification besides answering questions?**

- Annual attestation that you:
  - Possess an active, unrestricted license to practice medicine.
  - Have a medical practice that includes interpretation of echocardiograms.
  - Earned 15 hours of echocardiography CME in the preceding 3 years.
  - Participate in an Echo Quality Improvement program.

**Questions and Concerns:**

For any further questions/concerning the MOCE process, please email [certification@echobords.org](mailto:certification@echobords.org). If you have questions about MOCE, please contact [MOCE@echobords.org](mailto:MOCE@echobords.org).