

Message from the Chair

Ryan D. Niederkoehr, MD – *Past Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine*

Dear ABNM Diplomates:

As we come to the end of the year, the topic of change comes to mind. I am eager to share with you some upcoming changes that will be coming soon with respect to maintenance of ABNM certification.

In the past, the concept of self assessment modules (SAMs) was considered an essential element of lifelong continuing education by many certification boards, including the ABNM. SAM credits were offered from a variety of venues including at live meetings and via journal articles. While the concept of self assessment questions makes sense in principle, in practice the concept became somewhat clunky for both diplomates and creators / presenters of educational content.

This year, the ABNM discontinued all requirements for SAM credits. We are pivoting to a more robust system which will incorporate many “real world” activities to fulfill ongoing education and professional development requirements.

For example, in the future, activities such as ongoing research in nuclear medicine, participation in tumor boards or other case conferences, participation in activities or committee work related to radiation safety and safe handling of radiopharmaceuticals, and other related professional activities will be accepted to fulfill Continuing Certification (CC) - Professional Development Activities (formerly MOC Part 2) requirements, in lieu of CME/SAM credits.

It is hoped that these changes will add both value and flexibility by recognizing and integrating the value of the ongoing work done by our diplomates as part of our clinical and/or academic practices. In conjunction with Certlink as a robust online tool for ongoing longitudinal learning at the diplomate’s convenience, the ABNM is trying to bring maintenance of certification (now Continuing Certification) into the modern era. As always, your feedback is welcomed.



Ryan D. Niederkoehr, MD
Past Chair