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American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Continuing Certification/Maintenance of Certification Exam Candidates September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam - Deferment Option

July 09, 2020

Dear ABOHNS 2020 CC/MOC Exam Candidates,

In consideration and concern for the safety of our diplomates due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) postponed the Continuing Certification/Maintenance of Certification (CC/MOC) Exam in March 2020.

As the pandemic continues throughout the country, we have been informed that some candidates are experiencing difficulties obtaining a reservation at a preferred location for the 2020 Continuing Certification/Maintenance of Certification (CC/MOC) Exam scheduled for September 30, 2020. Due to the unique circumstances caused by COVID-19 we recognize that some diplomates may therefore prefer or need to defer taking the 2020 CC/MOC Exam and are offering that option for those interested.

Options available to diplomates registered for the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam:

- **For diplomates with certificates that currently expire December 31, 2020:**
 - **Option 1 - Request a deferral:** For those opting to defer taking the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam, you will need to take and pass the next administered CC/MOC Exam to renew your board certification, which is scheduled for May 03, 2021. The ABOHNS will email you when the application is available in Fall 2020. The expiration date for your certification, that now expires on December 31, 2020, will be extended to June 30, 2021. Diplomat profiles will be updated in November 2020 to reflect the new expiration date. **Acceptance of the deferral request by the ABOHNS is additionally contingent on you catching up and completing any remaining requirements of Parts I and II of Continuing Certification before October 30, 2020.** If you do not do

this, then the deferment will not be accepted, and you will lose your board certification on December 31, 2020.

- Option 2 - Do not request a deferral: For those opting to take the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam as scheduled, you will need to pass the exam to renew your board certification. A deferral request will not be accepted after you initiate taking the exam on that date. Additionally, you will need to catch up and complete any remaining requirements of Parts I and II of Continuing Certification before your certification expiration date of December 31, 2020.

Note: The new certification dates for candidates with certificates that expire on December 31, 2020 who defer their examination and pass the May 03, 2021 exam will be June 1, 2020 – June 30, 2030.

- For diplomates with certificates that currently expire June 30, 2021 or June 30, 2022:
 - Option 1 – Request a deferral: For those opting to defer taking the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam and prefer to renew their certification by getting their Part III credit with the traditional, point-in-time CC/MOC Exam, you can register for the next administered CC/MOC Exam, which is scheduled for May 03, 2021. ABOHNS will email you when the application is available in Fall 2020. The expiration date for your certification will not need to be adjusted since the next scheduled CC/MOC Exam date will occur beforehand. If your certification expires in 2021, then you will need to pass the CC/MOC Exam on May 03, 2021 in order to renew your board certification. As a reminder, diplomates also need to complete all remaining requirements for Part I and Part II of Continuing Certification before the certification expiration date in order to renew board certification.
 - Option 2 – Do not request a deferral: For those opting to take the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam as scheduled, if you pass the exam then your certification will be renewed on the existing expiration date pending completion of all remaining requirements for Part I and Part II of Continuing Certification before that date. If your certification expiration date is in 2021 and you fail the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam, then you will have one more opportunity to take and pass the CC/MOC Exam before your certificate would expire, which would be during the next exam administration date of May 03, 2021.

- Option 3 – Decide to proceed with CertLink instead of the traditional, point-in-time CC/MOC Exam: For diplomates registered for the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam with certificates that now expire on June 30, 2021 or June 30, 2022, an additional option would be to register for CertLink instead of taking the CC/MOC Exam. For those that are interested in this option, more information will be available later this summer.

Additional Important Information for Candidates for the September 30, 2020 CC/MOC Exam:

- Requests for deferment will be accepted up to five days prior to the registered exam administration date at no cost and can be made by sending an email request to Kristen Beverly at MOC@ABOHNS.ORG. Within five days of the CC/MOC exam, deferrals can still be requested but there will be a cost of \$100. Deferrals will not be accepted once a candidate enters a test center and begins the exam.
- If a diplomate does not successfully renew board certification, the ABOHNS has a Re-entry Policy that would apply for those that desire to regain certification.

On behalf of all of us at ABOHNS, we thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. We hope that you, your families, and your colleagues remain safe and healthy. We are also steadfast in our commitment to assist you as you navigate in these challenging times, and encourage those needing assistance to contact Kristen Beverly (Continuing Certification Specialist) at MOC@ABOHNS.ORG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Nussenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Nussenbaum".

Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM
Executive Director