

ABCRS and CERTLINK

A Notification of Changes in Maintenance of Certification Spring 2018

MOC Part 3

- Changes in MOC will affect Part 3 only
- The 10 year exam will be replaced by a system for continuous MOC via an online platform called “CERTLINK”
- CERTLINK is provided to the ABCRS for a fee through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) which developed it in collaboration with FigMD, a medical specialty software design company
- The new MOC cycle will be 5 years in length instead of 3

Why change?

- Continuous MOC is current and relevant.
- It is easy and efficient.
- It provides real-time assessment of performance on common, relevant, working knowledge of colorectal surgery.
- It will provide references and explanations during the exam.
- It will provide a way for diplomates to participate by offering feedback on questions if desired.

How do I participate?

- Questions are answered on YOUR computer at home or work or on other portable devices.
- There is no longer a requirement to report to a testing center.
- The questions are sent out weekly (see schema).
- You can answer them in batches quarterly if desired (18/quarter).
- A registration form will be filled out online when you start.
- Attestation that you (and only you!) are being examined will be required online.

What are the benefits?

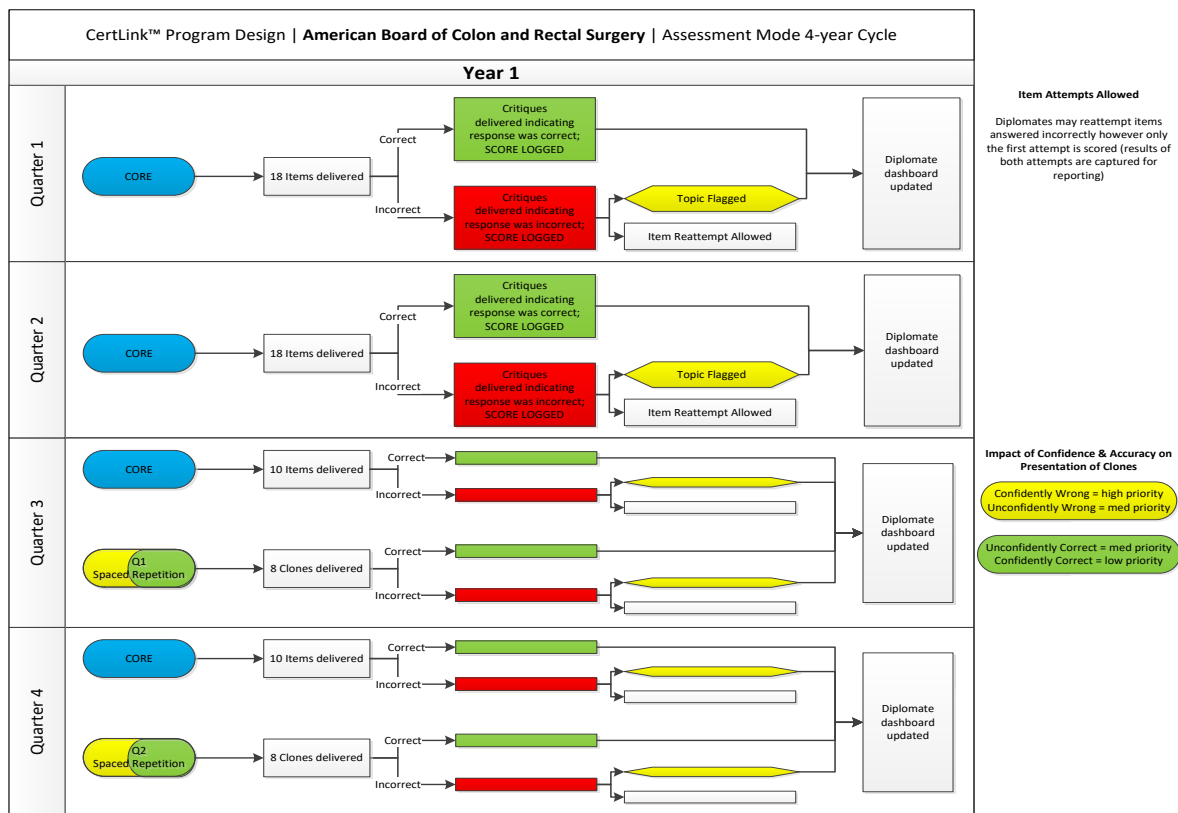
- CERTLINK has the ability to link to outside educational resources as well as store and maintain the explanations provided after answering questions for your personal use.
- CERTLINK can be used as a resource without logging on to answer questions.
- Credit for participation (Part II CME/self-assessment credits) are being considered currently. The details of how this will be affected are forthcoming.
- The 4 year cycle means that Part 1 of MOC does not need to be updated as frequently.

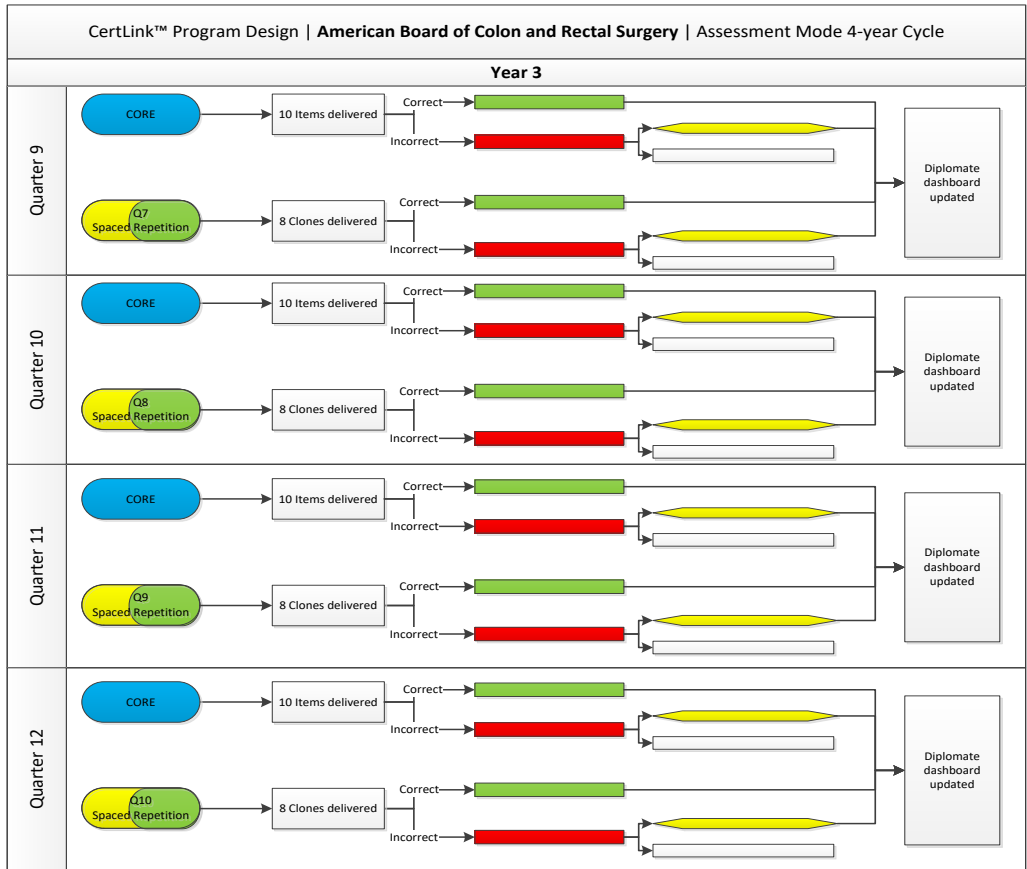
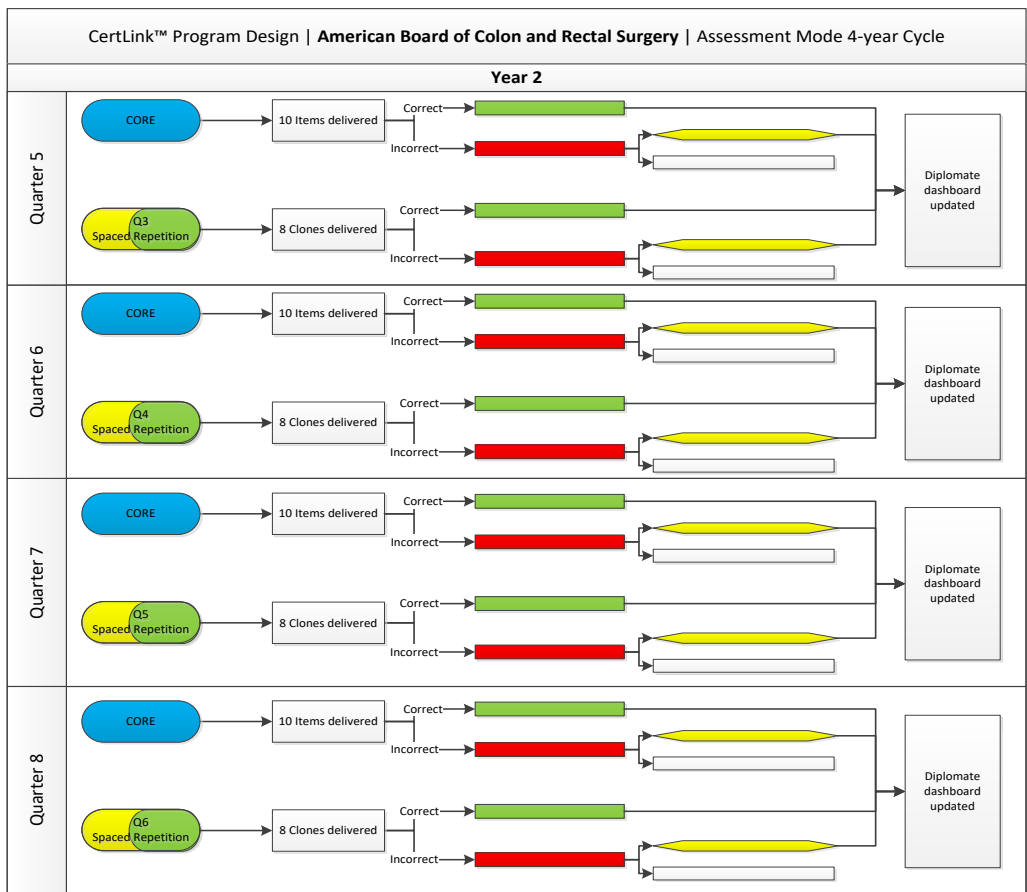
What are my options if I don't participate?

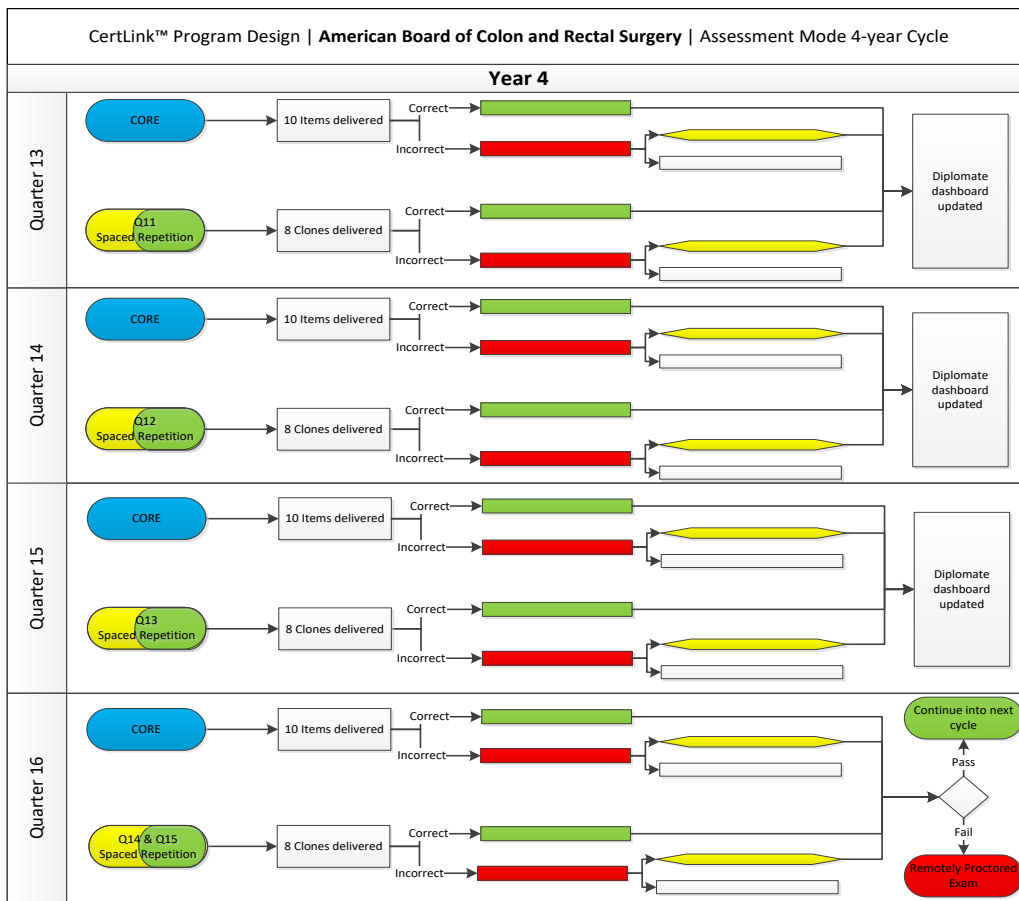
- The 10 year exam will be used for the next 2 years and will be available for those who must recertify at this time. It will not be available after that time.
- Participants will be notified after 1 quarter of nonparticipation. 2 quarters (6 months) of nonparticipation will jeopardize the diplomates' board certification standing.
- Longer periods of nonparticipation will require a re-entry pathway with penalty fees.

SCHEMA

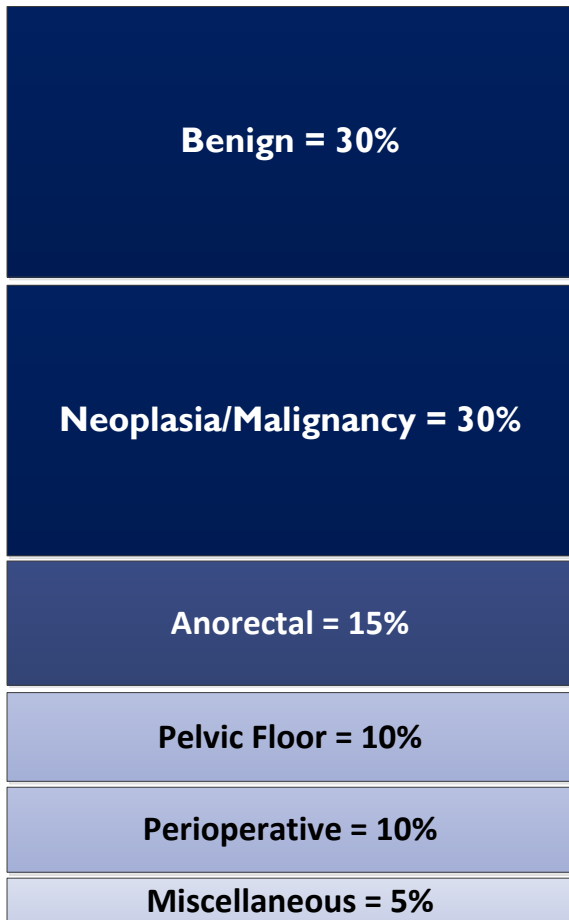
- 18 Questions are pushed out every quarter.
- 5 minutes allotted to read and answer each question.
- Questions about the relevance of the question and how confident the examinee is regarding the answer are solicited.
 - The relevance and confidence questions are for use in test design.
 - These questions may eventually be eliminated depending on the data regarding their utility.
- The test schema is outlined in the following slides.







Dynamic Syllabus Design



Guiding Principles of Item Count

- Content mix achieves the syllabus outlined here
- Identical breakdown to 10 year exam
- 18 items are administered each quarter
- In quarters 3 and beyond (including additional cycles) the item mix is
 - 10 new items
 - 8 clones selected based on prior performance and self-reported confidence
- Out of 224 items, clones should represent no more than 30% of the exam

How much does it cost?

- [Please see the updated MOC fee statement.](#)

When does this start?

- The first diplomates enrolled are those sitting for the ABCRS certifying exam in September 2017. These diplomates start CERTLINK MOC in the Spring of 2018.
- Other diplomates will be able to enroll shortly thereafter in a schedule TBD.
- More information regarding the platform, participation, and enrollment will be sent out via email this fall.