



The American Board of Pathology

CONTINUING CERTIFICATION (CC)

The ABPath, as one of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), is committed to continuous professional development through its Continuing Certification (CC) program. CC assists physicians in maintaining standards necessary for them to provide quality care throughout their careers. Through the CC program the public can be assured that the physician is committed to lifelong learning and competency in pathology. Important program components are described below.

- 1) Once you receive your initial primary certificate, you will be automatically enrolled in the (CC) program including the ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) pilot.
- 2) You are required to **submit** a reporting form every two years via PATHway under the “CC” tab, beginning January 1st, of the year following initial certification.
 - a. The first CC requirement covers all education, activities, and employment during the full 24-month period. The submission deadline is December 31st of year 2.
 - b. An ABPath-approved Patient Safety Course (PSC) must be completed within the first two reporting periods (or by the end of the 4th year) of the reporting cycle.
- 3) Continuing Certification consists of four parts:
 - a. **Professionalism and Professional Standing** -you will submit each of the following:
 - copy of your medical license (copy must display valid expiration date)
 - an explanation of medical staff privileges (if applicable)
 - description of your practice
 - b. **Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment** -you will submit just ONE of the following:
 - minimum of 70 AMA PRA Category 1 CME credits, of which at least 20 must be SAM-eligible (Self-Assessment)
 - the completion of a full 12-month pathology fellowship (*if using a fellowship, you must login to PATHway and enter this information in the reporting form*)
 - the completion of a Physician-Scientist Research Pathway
 - c. **Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills** -there are two options:
 - Successful participation in ABPCL
 - OR**
 - Take the traditional CC exam by the end of your 10-year CC reporting cycle
 - d. **Improvement in Medical Practice** -you will submit each of the following:
 - laboratory accreditation numbers (if applicable)
 - laboratory performance improvement and quality assurance (PI/QA) activities (if applicable)
 - at least 2 individual pathologist PI/QA activities (a minimum of one per year)
 - OR**
 - the completion of a full 12-month pathology fellowship
 - OR**
 - the completion of a Physician-Scientist Research Pathway
- 4) The \$300 fee for a two-year reporting period is required to complete the submission of a reporting form. If the form is submitted after the deadline, a late fee of \$100 will be added.
- 5) **Continuing Certification status is contingent upon meeting all CC requirements and deadlines of the program during each 2-year reporting period.**

Please refer to the *CC Booklet of Information* located on the ABPath website for complete details. If you have questions, please contact John Lemke, Continuing Certification Coordinator, at john@abpath.org.