

ICCS SAMs FAQ

What are self assessment modules (SAMs)?

SAMs are part of the American Board of Pathology (ABP) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program, which all ABP diplomates boarded since 2006 participate. SAMs fulfill one component of the ABP Life Long Learning- Self-Assessment (Part II) of MOC. The requirements of Life Long Learning- Self-Assessment are:

- 70 Category 1 CME credits / 2 year cycle
- 20 CME credits / 2 year cycle must be SAMs
- 80% CME related to individual's practice

Do SAMs have to be CME's?

Yes. The SAM must be a CME accredited exercise that is AMA category 1.

Do the 20 SAMs also count towards the 70 CMEs?

No. For purposes of MOC you cannot "double dip". For ABP purposes, you must obtain a total 90 CME over two years; 70 are "regular" CMEs while 20 must be SAMs. For example, a pathologist attended the ICCS meeting and spent 10 hours of educational time attending lectures and workshops. Two of those hours were spent at the luncheon workshops. After the meeting the pathologists took the online quizzes for the two workshop he/she attended. The pathologist can apply 8 CME credits to the 70 CME requirement and 2 credits to the SAMs requirement. The pathologist cannot apply 2 credits to SAMs and 10 credits to the CME.

OK, so I can't use those 2 SAMs towards the 70 "regular" CME requirement, but what about my state medical license?

SAMs are for ABP use only. As far as the state medial board is concerned our hypothetical pathologist got 10 CMEs at the ICCS meeting.

What does "CME related to individual's practice" include?

Anything even remotely related to pathology practice. A Wilderness Medicine course dealing with fractures would probably be out, but a microbiology CME looking at intestinal pathogens picked up while camping would be OK. The ABP seems very flexible about this.

How many SAMs are offered by the ICCS?

Currently only the Luncheon Workshops are SAMs eligible. Future plans include SAMs for other meeting sessions and online educational activities.

How do I earn the SAMs credits at the Luncheon Workshops?

Log onto the ICCS webpage after the workshop and take the online quiz. Information on how to log on will be given out at the ICCS meeting and will be posted on the ICCS webpage.

Can I take the quizzes for workshops I didn't attend ?

Sure, but you will not get SAMs credit for them.

I am not a pathologist certified by the ABP that participates in MOC (e.g., Med tech, PhD immunologist, foreign pathologist, a pathologist took ABP Boards prior to 2006, etc.) but I attended ICCS Luncheon Workshop and took the SAMs quiz online. Will I get SAMs credit?

You will get a SAMs certificate e-mailed to you, but since you do not require SAMs it will only serve as documentation of CME credit.

For further information about SAMs, and MOC in general, please go to the ABP web site: <http://www.abpath.org/MOCIndex.htm>

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