

## **ABCMO Deadline Nears**

After August, 2013, the American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) will accept applications for certification as a specialist in medical optometry only from licensed ODs who have:

1. Completed an accredited one-year residency in medical optometry.
2. Passed the NBEO examination, Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry and,
3. Practice in a clinical setting with emphasis on medical optometry.

Founded in 2009 as the national certifying body for the specialty of medical optometry, ABCMO began with a three-year period during which those who had completed a residency prior to 2006 were not required to pass the ACMO examination (Career Path #2) and those who had not completed a residency or passed ACMO could petition for certification by providing documentation of competence in medical optometry (Career Path #3).

Similar initial time periods were utilized by specialty certification boards in medicine and dentistry to allow “senior” practitioners, who had acquired specialty expertise without serving a residency, to apply for certification in a specialty of medicine or dentistry when these specialty boards commenced operations.

In August, 2013, Career Paths #2 and #3 close and completion of an accredited residency with emphasis on medical optometry, passage of the ACMO examination administered by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and active practice of the specialty become mandatory for application to ABCMO.

Certification by a specialty board is used in medicine and dentistry to verify competence in a specialty of these professions advanced beyond that required for general practice. This advanced competence is achieved by residency training in the specialty, passage of a national examination in the specialty and meeting other requirements of the recognized certifying board for the specialty.

Joint Commission accredited medical centers, clinics and group practices recognize ABCMO certification as certifying competence in the specialty of medical optometry and award specialist status in medical optometry to those certified by ABCMO.

ABCMO is the national certifying body for specialists in medical optometry who practice, or seek to practice, within federal or state chartered, Joint Commission accredited, medical organizations as well as medical group practices, academic eye centers and private medical clinics.

Additional information can be found at [www.abcmo.org](http://www.abcmo.org).

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