



ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

Enhancing Patient Safety through Continuous Professional Development: The Positive Impact of the ASCP BOC's Credential Maintenance Program

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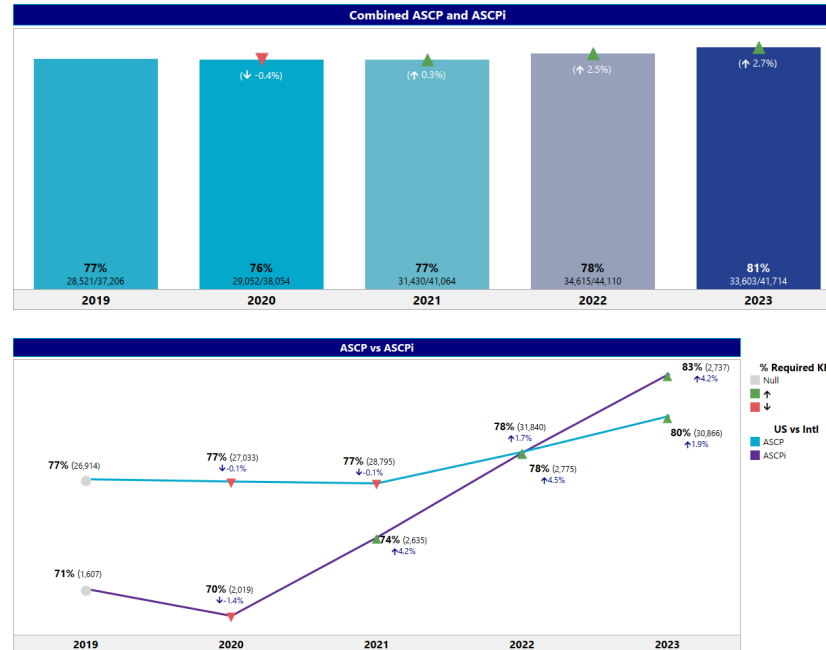
INTRODUCTION

This study focuses on the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC), which is founded on the guiding principle that lifelong learning is essential for maintaining professional competency on behalf of patients worldwide. Research informs the dynamic nature of the knowledge and skills needed to provide high-quality, patient-centric laboratory services, emphasizing that these requirements are not static.

As a result, CMP underscores the critical importance of effective engagement in educational and professional development activities for pathologists and laboratory professionals. Such ongoing involvement is deemed vital for advancing with the latest developments in the laboratory professional scope of practice, thereby significantly contributing to the enhancement of patient safety and overall quality of care.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

While CMP has seen significant growth and increased participation rates, there are still areas that could benefit from further improvement. One area is the accessibility and flexibility of CMP for professionals in different regions and with varying levels of resources. Ensuring that all participants have knowledge of where to access high-quality educational resources and professional development opportunities is crucial. Additionally, gathering more detailed feedback from participants about their experiences and challenges with CMP could provide valuable insights and opportunities for refining and enhancing the program. Expanding support for professionals to meet the new CMP requirements, especially in specialized fields, will be important to maintain high participation rates and overall satisfaction.



METHODS, RESULTS, & DATA

Reflecting the program's expanding influence and the BOC's dedication to continual enhancement, participation in mandatory CMP during Calendar-Year-23 (CY23) has experienced a 3% increase compared to Calendar-Year-22 (CY22).

In the U.S. (ASCP), the participation rate for mandatory CMP in CY23 reached 80%, marking a 3% increase over the previous 5 years. Internationally (ASCP^I), the participation rate for mandatory CMP saw a significant jump, reaching 83% in CY23, a 13% increase over the previous 5 years. Such data underscores the global recognition of the value of BOC credentials and importance of ongoing professional development. Additionally, there has been a 40% increase in orders for primary source verification over the past 5 years, indicating a heightened interest in and commitment to BOC professional credentials and CMP.

From 2023, CMP requirements now include an additional point in medical ethics for all certifications, and in 2024, CMP points in the specialty area of certification increased from 2 to 8 points for equity in CMP requirements across most categories. These changes represent a strategic enhancement to CMP, focusing on deepening the knowledge and expertise of laboratory professionals in their specialties.

CONCLUSION

CMP plays a vital role in ensuring that laboratory professionals and pathologists remain current with the latest advancements in their field, ultimately enhancing patient safety and quality of care. The increased participation rates and expanded requirements highlight the growing recognition of the program's value. Continued efforts to improve accessibility, gather participant feedback, and support professionals in meeting CMP requirements will be essential for sustaining the program's success and impact on the global healthcare community.

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