Update on MOC for Internists
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Disclosures
• I have no relevant financial ties to disclose
• I have never received any financial remuneration from the ABIM or any other ABMS board
• I am the Social Media Editor for the Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions, which has published papers on MOC (I never reviewed any of them)

Objectives
After this session, participants should be able to:
• Recite four parts to MOC
• Describe recent pushback about MOC
• Explain relevant literature on MOC effectiveness
• Hear alternative opinions on MOC and its impact on quality

Let Me Ask You
• What do you think of the MOC process and where do you think it is headed?

Tradition
• After residency, take an “exam”
• If passed, you were “competent” for life

Time-limited certificates
• Each board decided differently when to abandon “time-unlimited” and move to “time-limited” certificates
• ABIM moved to this in 1990
• Which was the last to abandon “grandfather”?*
• Other boards never even had “time-unlimited”
  – Family Medicine
  – Emergency Medicine

*Other boards never even had “time-unlimited”

What do you think of the MOC process and where do you think it is headed?
Why MOC?

- Older literature suggested that skills erode with time
- More recently: physicians can’t accurately self-assess their own performance
- Rise in importance of quality improvement occurred concomitantly


MOC

- Designed to address importance of “keeping up” in medicine

4 Parts to MOC

- I. Professional Standing
- II. Lifelong Learning/Self Assessment
- III. Secure Exam
- IV. Practice Assessment (QI project)
Part I - Professionalism

• Must hold unrestricted license to practice medicine

Part II. Lifelong Learning

• “List” of approved activities
  • INTERNAL ABIM modules
  • EXTERNAL opportunities
    – MKSAP questions
    – ACP High Value Care cases
    – Journal CME questions
    – NEJM Knowledge+

Part II. Lifelong Learning

• Recently, ACCME partnership with ABIM
• Expand options to receive MOC credit

Part III. Secure Exam

• Every 10 years, take and pass a “secure examination”
• Consideration now to abandon this process
• ABIM Assessment 2020 Task Force
• ABA “MOCA Minute”

Part IV. Practice Assessment

• Demonstrate quality improvement in one’s own practice
• ABIM Modules allow one to do this
• Modules on common diagnoses within IM
  – Diabetes
  – Hypertension
  – List expanded from original menu of options

ABIM MOC Part IV Modules Menu
Part IV

- Other organizations sponsor Part IV projects
  - ASN
  - ACP

Part IV. Practice Assessment

- This is really the area which caused the most controversy
- “Why is this necessary?”
- “What is the evidence that doing a QI project improves care?”

So what IS the evidence for MOC?

- “Patients’ and hospitals’ value of board certification and physician participation in MOC are high.
- Physicians are conflicted as to whether the effort involved is worth its value.”

More evidence

- “A sound theoretical rationale and a respectable evidence base exists to support the current structure and elements of the MOC program.”

MOC in specific disease states

- Diabetes
- Asthma

How did it get to this crazy state?

- Rumblings that MOC was a waste of time
- Some organizations stood out against MOC
- AAPS

Why Patients Should Avoid Physicians Who Submit to Specialty Board Re-Certification

Editorial:
MOB: Maintenance of Bureaucracy
ABIM Decision in 2014

- “Double down” on QI
- Required one project every 5 years (NOT 10)
- Outcry was palpable
- “Tipping point”

2014 Petition Against MOC

- Over 22,000 signatures supporting petition
- ABIM had no response
- Formation of NBPAS in early 2015

Everything changed February 3, 2015

“We got it wrong and sincerely apologize. We are sorry.”

ABIM Announces Immediate Changes to MOC Program

Philadelphia, PA—February 3, 2015—Today, the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) announced substantial changes to its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program and indicated its desire to work more closely with the medical community. ABIM President and CEO Vincent J. Beran, MD, reached out to diplomats via e-mail to open a conversation on how to improve MOC.

For media inquiries, please e-mail press@abim.org or call 215-506-7165.

Dear Internal Medicine Community:

ABIM clearly got it wrong. We launched programs that weren’t ready and we didn’t deliver an MOC program that physicians found meaningful. We want to change that.

What changed?

- SUSPENDED Patient Satisfaction requirement
- SUSPENDED Patient Safety requirement
- SUSPENDED Part 4 requirement for two years
- UPDATE MOC exam – “more relevant”

Fuel to the Fire - Newsweek

The Ugly Civil War in American Medicine

More Fuel

- Dr. Wes Fisher blog – http://drwes.blogspot.com/
- Published articles
  - P Teirstein
  - Forming NBPAS


NBPAS

- Previous certification from ABMS Board
- Valid license
- Demonstrate 50 hours of CME credit in last 2 years
- No revocation of clinical privileges in one's specialty

Who recognizes NBPAS?

- Hospital/health system medical staff offices decide such policies
- Is anyone aware of a local system which officially recognizes NBPAS?

What IS the cost of MOC?

- To general internists: MOC costs over 10 years were $16,725
- To heme/onc docs: $40,495
- Time is biggest component of "cost"

What’s happening in other specialties?

- Some rumblings, but not to same degree
- Emergency Medicine and ABEM
  - AAEM survey: 65% of responders were unlikely to let board certification lapse
  - “Emergency Physicians don’t share the internists’ deep dislike of MOC.”

MOC in Pediatrics

- In general, pediatricians are “more accepting” of requirements placed upon them
- Tide is shifting, but slower than sentiment against ABIM
  - Dissatisfaction in choice of activities
  - Lack of cost effectiveness (poor “value”)
  - MOC interferes with more important activities

Solutions to ease burden?

- 20 of 24 ABMS Boards participate (including ABIM)
- Institutions “sign off” on QI projects their physicians participate in and send info to individual boards
Outcomes on Portfolio Program

- No publications on outcomes
- Anecdotal data: health system saves money
  - U Michigan
  - Mayo Clinic

What is the future?

- What will new Part 4 requirement look like for ABIM?
- Secure exam (part 3) – will it go away?
- Easier to obtain part 2 (lifelong learning) credit

Questions?