

ABIM Maintenance of Certification: Past, Present and Future

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No disclosures



**KEEP
CALM
AND
DON'T SHOOT
THE MESSENGER**



HISTORY OF ABIM

American Board of Internal Medicine

- ABIM created in 1936
- Certifies Internal Medicine physicians and 20 subspecialties
 - Independent, non-profit
 - Largest medical specialty board
 - \$55,000,000/year organization
 - “Voluntary”
- Overseen by American Board of Medical Specialties

American Board of Medical Specialties

- Oversees 24 subsidiary medical subspecialties
- Has lobbied for hospitals and payers to require board certification



History of ABIM

American Board of Internal Medicine

Examination, December 14, 1936

Part I 9 a. m.

- (1) Describe the anatomical features of cervical ribs with special reference to those which may produce clinical symptoms.
- (2) Discuss cyanosis—origin, varieties, clinical causes, treatment.
- (3) Discuss the general principles and sources of error involved in the Wasserman reaction.
- (4) Discuss the pharmacological actions of
 - (a) digitalis
 - (b) quinidine



CURRENT STATE OF ABIM

January 2014 - Changes

- Increased to 100 points every 5 years
- Added patient survey and patient safety module
- Cost increased to \$1940 every 10 years
 - \$2650 for subspecialists
- Required to earn points every 2 years
- Board reports if an MD is “meeting MOC requirements”
- Multiple scenarios – added personalized MOC portal

My Home Page (Amy Holbrook)

Welcome to your secure home page on the ABIM website.



[Edit your photo](#)

My Information

Your ABIM ID is: 335130

- ◆ [Update Contact Information](#) (mailing address, phone number, e-mail address)
- ◆ [Update NPI](#) (National Provider Identifier)
- ◆ [Complete the new Practice Characteristic Survey](#)
- ◆ [Change password](#)
- ◆ [Highlight your ABIM Certification Status on your website](#)
- ◆ [Maintenance of Certification Policies](#)
- ◆ [Self-Evaluation Overview](#)
- ◆ [Claim CME Credit for completed activities](#)
- ◆ [View CME Credit Report](#)
- ◆ [Contact ABIM](#)

My Reminders

- ◆ [Check your MOC status report for deadlines and requirements](#)

My Examinations

There are no open registration periods at this time. Click to view the dates of the [next available registration periods](#).

- ◆ [View registration status and exam results](#)
- ◆ [Please make sure you read the current re-examination policy for ABIM Certification exams.](#)

My Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program

You are currently enrolled in the MOC program.

- ◆ [View MOC status report](#)
- ◆ [View Self-Evaluation Activity Report](#)
- ◆ [Change certificates you are maintaining](#)
- ◆ [Optional Reporting to Health Plans and Other Organizations](#)
- ◆ [PQRS MOC: Earn a financial bonus for your participation in MOC](#)
- ◆ [Choose a Medical Knowledge Module \(ABIM activities are no cost to you\)](#)
- ◆ [Choose a Practice Assessment Activity \(Includes PIMs and other activities. ABIM activities are no cost to you.\)](#)
- ◆ [Submit AQI Project Report](#)
- ◆ [WATCH: Learn what Meeting Requirements means and why MOC changed](#)

myMOCStatus

A resource for monitoring your Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.
Check this page at least annually.

MOC Status for Amy K Holbrook

The status below is listed by certification. However, you are [publicly reported](#) as meeting MOC requirements for all certifications as long as you are meeting MOC requirements in one certification area.

Enrolled in MOC through 10/23/2023

Internal Medicine: **Certified, Meeting MOC Requirements** *

* You have chosen to maintain this certificate.

Requirements & Deadlines

Below are the requirements and deadlines for the [certifications you have chosen to maintain](#).

Please note that points you earn count toward the milestones for all certifications you have chosen to maintain.

By 12/31/2017:

- Complete any MOC activity ([practice assessment](#) or [medical knowledge](#)) between 1/1/16 and 12/31/17

By 12/31/2018:

- Complete 57 self-evaluation ([medical knowledge](#) or [practice assessment](#)) points
- Complete a [patient voice](#) activity

By 12/31/2022:

- Pass the [Internal Medicine MOC examination](#)
*Your first MOC exam attempt, per certificate, earns 20 MOC points.
You will be eligible to register in 2018*

[View Your Completed Products](#)

Current Requirements

- 100 points every 5 years
 - 20 in medical knowledge
 - Taking boards is worth 20 medical knowledge points
 - 20 in practice improvement (PIM)
 - Patient survey requirement every 5 years
 - Patient safety module every 5 years
- Still need to take and pass the exam every 10 years
- Need to earn some points every 2 years

ABIM Board Exam

- The exam is worth 20 medical knowledge points
- Still needs to be done every 10 years
- Test timing isn't related to timing of MOC cycle
- Offered spring and fall
- *Resets your cycle if you take it early

Earning Points

- Variety of ways to earn MOC points
 - ABIM online modules
 - ACP online modules
 - Learning sessions
 - Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs)

Examples: Medical Knowledge

- Self Evaluation Modules
 - Web based
 - Open book, can be done alone or in a group
 - 'Enroll' on ABIM website
- ACP-MKSAP questions
- NEJM medical cases
- ACP-SEP sessions

Examples: Practice Assessment

- PIM – Practice Improvement Module
- ABIM PIMs
 - Condition specific
 - Asthma, diabetes, colonoscopy, hypertension
- AQP Pathway
 - Multiple sponsoring groups
 - ACP, subspecialty groups, universities, CDC
- Self-directed or completed project PIM

Logistics

- Initial certification 1989 or earlier
 - Listed as “certified, not meeting MOC requirements”
- Certified with an end date
 - You stay “certified” until your end date
- Newly boarded, or those re-boarding (starting 2014), certification will not list an end date
- Points earned before 2014 don’t count toward the new MOC
- Money paid before 2014 does count

Hospitalist vs IM

- Can be certified in:
 - Internal Medicine
 - IM with a Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine
- For “Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine”
 - Need to be ACLS certified
 - Need 3 years of unsupervised practice as a hospitalist
 - Different exam
 - Costs more (\$2060 vs \$1940)

Medical Licensure

- MOC vs CME
- Licensure is governed by state
 - MN requires 75 hours of CME every 3 years
 - **MOC accepted in lieu of CME** – since 2011
- Need a license to practice medicine
- ABIM requires a valid license to be board certified



CONTROVERSY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

U.S. NEWS

Doctors Upset Over Skill Reviews

New Learning Requirement to Maintain Certifications Called Costly, Irrelevant

By MELINDA BECK

July 21, 2014 7:27 p.m. ET

EDITORIAL

Annals of Internal Medicine

Maintenance of Certification: Beauty Is in the Eyes of the Beholder

Change Board Recertification

Just Updated!

2014

Since the June 2010 launch of **Change Board Recertification**, we have been overwhelmed by consensus and support from our colleagues.

Our numbers continue to grow, with a singular focus on reforming the current MOC pro-



ABIM MOC Petition Reveals Escalating Debate Among Physicians

By *NEJM Knowledge+ Team*

Share This: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [in](#) [✉](#) | June 26th, 2014



Controversy

- Physicians are mad
 - Significant increase in requirements in 2014
- “... discriminatory money-making juggernaut without any reasonable proof of efficacy”
- Association of American Physicians and Surgeons is suing ABMS

Advocates

- Board certified doctors have better outcomes
- Proves commitment to life-long learning
- Patients and consumers want proof
- Physicians don't recognize areas of shortcoming
- Need an independent 3rd party organization to evolve with changes in medicine
- 10 year cycle is "simply not credible today"
- Multiple pathways to accomplish MOC requirements

Criticisms – MOC Modules

- Time & Money
- Not clinically relevant
- No proof that MOC process improves patient care
- PIMs require patient information
 - Significant data entry
 - Privacy concerns
- Some AQI PIMs underwritten by pharmaceutical companies
- Some material outdated (cover last 3 years of updates)

Criticisms – Exam

- Time & Money
- “Test written by sub-specialists for generalists”
- Responsibilities and decisions that do not exist in the real medical world
- Test failure rates climbing
- No direct feedback on actual questions missed

Anti-MOC Petition

- Started in March 2014
 - <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/recallmoc>
 - Over 18,000 signatures
 - Calls for exam every 10 years, no other MOC
 - Letter of response from ABIM CEO
 - “MOC is a continuously evolving program... focused on improving the value and relevance of the credential...we welcome constructive feedback”

ABIM should recall the recent changes to Maintenance of Certification (MOC)



Signatures

18,979  20,000

 Like { 12k

 Tweet { 494

 +1 { 33

Opened on March 10, 2014

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) has recently created Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements which add significant time and expense to board certification. Beginning in 2014, to be reported as "Meeting MOC Requirements," physicians must sign up for a complex system requiring they complete MOC activities every two years and pay significantly higher fees.

The undersigned believe:

- 1) ABIM has made unreasonable changes in MOC requiring more frequent participation and higher fees
- 2) Scientific data indicating MOC provides benefit is lacking
- 3) Via either personal experience with MOC or the experience of our colleagues, we believe the MOC activities are complex, have questionable value, and detract from more worthwhile pursuits, including patient care and other educational activities, i.e. CME
- 4) A test administered every ten years for recertification is a sufficient metric for MOC
- 5) Therefore, we call on ABIM to recall the changes in MOC and institute a simple pathway consisting of a recertification test every ten years

July Meeting

- ABIM met with 24 medical society representatives in person
- “Commitments”
 - 1 year grace period after failing exam
 - More financial transparency
 - More feedback re: test scores
 - Evolve the ‘patient survey’ to a ‘patient voice’ requirement
 - Reduce PIM data collection requirements
 - Streamline CME/MOC overlap



FUTURE OF ABIM



ACP

- MOC is currently ACP's #1 priority
- "work aggressively to achieve reform in MOC through active discussions with ABIM"
- "... to be successful in effecting change... it is critical for ACP to maintain a positive working relationship with ABIM"

MOC Navigator [Start Over](#)

1 Getting Started

2 Medical Knowledge Pts.

3 Patient Safety Requirement

4 Practice Assessment Pts.

5 Patient Voice Requirement

6 The Secure Exam

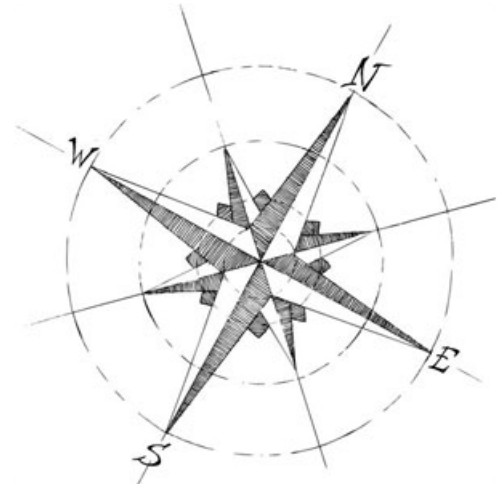
Overview of MOC

ABIM has developed a continuous MOC program that requires diplomates to meet important activity milestones every 2 and 5 years and to pass a secure examination on medical knowledge every 10 years.

Because the rules are complex and may apply differently to diplomates, depending on when they last certified, the American College of Physicians (ACP) has developed this MOC Navigator to help you understand MOC.

This tool will:

- Help you understand the impact and implications of MOC
- Assist you in making a decision about participation
- Review the detailed requirements
- Show you how to enroll in MOC
- Guide you in selecting ways to meet the requirements
- Provide information about the secure examination
- Suggest strategies to help you prepare for the secure examination



Changes?

- Ongoing conversations between ACP, other specialty organizations and ABIM leadership
- ABIM in “listening mode”
- Exploring changes to the secure exam
- Unclear where the dust will settle

More information

- American Board of Internal Medicine
 - www.abim.org
 - 1-800-441-ABIM
- ACP
 - www.acponline.org/education_recertification

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