Updates in ABIM MOC

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No Disclosures
American Board of Internal Medicine

• Created in 1936
• Largest medical specialty board
• Certifies all internal medicine specialties and subspecialties
• ”Voluntary”
History of ABIM

• 1936: One time exam - essay and oral exam
• 1972: Oral examinations discontinued
• 1990: Started giving 10 year certifications
• 1995: MOC modules added
• 2014: Increased cost and significantly increased requirements
  • Changed from 10 year certificate to ‘dependent on MOC participation’
  • Large physician backlash
• 2015: ABIM backed off on changes
  • Suspended QI requirement, patient survey, patient safety modules
• 2018: Testing changed to Open Book
• 2018: Two year “Knowledge Check-In” now alternative option
Changes

• Significant public relations push from ABIM after backlash

• “Transforming ABIM Blog”
• Community engagement team
• New score reporting
• Updating exam blueprints
• Grace period for exam failure
• No longer required to maintain underlying certification
• CME Finder
Open Book

• 2016: Study of ~800 physicians, randomized to ‘open book’ or traditional exam
  • Open book = UpToDate

• Results:
  • Reduced physician anxiety about the exam
  • Enhanced capacity to differentiate between high and low performances, minimal impact on pass rate
Current Requirements

• 100 MOC points every 5 years
• Complete some MOC points every 2 years
• Recertification exam every 10 years
  • *New 2 year option started in 2018

• Personalized portal
Knowledge “Check-In”

• 2 year exam in lieu of 10 year exam

• Only offered in even numbered years
  • 4-6 dates per year
  • Need to register for a specific time slot

• Get 20 MOC points
Knowledge “Check-In” - Logistics

• Need a computer with a camera and microphone
  • Home, office, or testing center
  • No one allowed to be in the room

• ~3 hours
  • Two blocks of 45 questions each (90 min each)

• Immediate feedback on performance
  • Some find out if they passed immediately, or “provisional” pass

• Access to UpToDate
Remaining 2018 “Check-In” Dates

- November 20
- December 1
### Knowledge “Check-In” by Specialty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>Advanced Heart Failure &amp; Transplant Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephrology</td>
<td>Geriatric Medicine</td>
<td>Clinical Cardiac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism</td>
<td>Electrophysiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Critical Care Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hematology</td>
<td>Hospice &amp; Palliative Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infectious Disease</td>
<td>Hospital Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pulmonary Disease</td>
<td>Interventional Cardiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>Medical Oncology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Transplant Hepatology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018

• “No consequences year”
  • If you fail, can try again in 2 years

• If your IM certificate expires in 2019
  • (If you want to do the 2 year track)
  • Need to take the “Check-In” in 2018
  • Not offered in 2019
  • Need to take traditional exam if you don’t take “Check-In” in 2018
Knowledge Check-In Experience

- 1200 physicians took it this year
  - ~90% were able to complete it without issues
  - Some glaring technical issues

- Do the system check!

- Can choose to take it at a testing center
Traditional Exam

• Still every 10 years
• At a testing center

• Now open book
  • Open book = UpToDate
Costs - 2018

• Annual MOC Fee
  • $124 year before due
  • $155 in year due
  • $175 after year due

• Traditional Exam Fee
  • $655 for IM
  • $1200 for subspecialty

• Check-In Exam Fee
  • $130
Costs

**CHOICE. FLEXIBILITY. VALUE.**
The value and cost of MOC in 2018

### UPDATED FEE SCHEDULE: 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ANNUAL MOC PROGRAM FEE</th>
<th>PAY ANNually</th>
<th>ASSESSMENT FEE*</th>
<th>TRADITIONAL MOC EXAM</th>
<th>KNOWLEDGE CHECK-IN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Year Due</td>
<td>$124</td>
<td>Visit 5%</td>
<td>Internal Medicine (IM) &amp; Focuses in Practice in Hospital Medicine (FPHM)</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Year Due</td>
<td>$155</td>
<td>Visit 5%</td>
<td>Subspecialty (SS)</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Year Due</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>Visit 5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The cost for taking one traditional MOC exam and five Knowledge Check-ins is the same over 10 years.

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**SUPPORTING 200,000 DOCTORS THROUGH THEIR CAREERS**

At ABIM, fees go directly to serving physicians by providing:

- Peer-developed assessment options
- New, seamless #CMEforMOC connection
- Access to all ABIM MOC activities
- New, dynamic intuitive portal
- Innovative and personalized MOC choices

**OVER 10 YEARS OPTIONS TO PAY LESS**

Includes MOC Program and Assessment Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 FEES</th>
<th>2018 UPDATED FEES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BEFORE YEAR DUE</td>
<td>IN YEAR DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>$1,940</td>
<td>$1,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS</td>
<td>$2,560</td>
<td>$2,440</td>
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<tr>
<td>IM &amp; SS</td>
<td>$3,530</td>
<td>$3,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS &amp; SS</td>
<td>$3,840</td>
<td>$3,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM &amp; SS &amp; SS</td>
<td>$4,810</td>
<td>$4,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Projected based on updated 2018 fees.

○ Represents a decrease compared to 2017 fees.
Cases
Case 1

- Dr. Liv Indadream
- Took initial exam in 1989
- Certified for life - “grandfather”
- Doesn’t need to participate in MOC to maintain certification
Case 2

- Dr. Rahul Follower
- Initial certification in 2012
- Loves MOC points, earns them at ACP every year, has way over 100
- Can choose 10 year test in 2022, or
- 2 year “Check-In” in 2022, or 2020 for a cushion
Case 3

- Dr. Ann Xious

- Initial certification in 2003, recertified in 2013
  - Near nervous breakdown in 2013 with palm scanning

- Reluctantly earns points every 2 year in Dec

- Will start 2 year “Check-In” in 2022, 2020 if wanted cushion
  - Could also choose 2023 traditional exam
Case 4

• Dr. O. Noim Screwd

• Initial certification in 2000, recertified in 2010
• Was in a state of pleasant denial until 15 min ago
• Never knew what MOC stood for

• Needs to join MOC and earn 80 points before 2020
• In 2020, needs to either take 10 year exam or 2 year “Check-In”
  • Get 20 points for test
• If not, even with taking test in 2020, would lose board certification
What if I Fail?

• If you fail the 10 year exam the year you’re due, you have a 1 year grace period to retake it before your lose your certification.

• If you fail the 2 year “Check-In” the year you’re due, you need to take and pass the 10 year exam within a year.
  • (Not 2018 because it’s a no consequences year)

• If you took and passed a “Check-In” exam 2 years early, but fail the year you’re due, you can try again in 2 years.

• If you fail two “Check-Ins” in a row, you need to take and pass the 10 year exam within a year.
License vs Board Certification

• ABIM governs board certification
  • Required by many employers

• Minnesota Medical Board governs state license
  • Required to practice medicine
  • Requires 75 hours of CME every 3 years

• Participation in MOC counts in lieu of CME for medical license
Alternative Pathways
Alternative Pathways

• “Collaborative Maintenance Pathways”
  • American College of Physicians
  • American College of Cardiology
  • American Society of Clinical Oncology
ACP Pathway

- In development
- Will meet criteria for MOC
- MKSAP based
National Board of Physicians and Surgeons

- Alternative “grassroots” board certification organization
- Launched in 2015
- ~7000 diplomates
- Multispecialty

Requirements:
- Initial certification by ABMS organization
- 50 hours of CME every 2 years
- Clinical privileges
More to Come

• Experience with 2 year “Check-In”
• Details of ACP’s alternative pathway
• QI, Patient Survey, Patient Safety requirements all “postponed”
  • Most likely these will go away
Take Home

• 2 year ”Check-In” Exam option started in 2018
  • Can choose 2 year or 10 year path
• Still need to earn points every 2 years, 100 points every 5 years
• Lots of variables based on your re-certification timing
  • Check personalized portal
“When you put it like that, it makes complete sense.”