Knowledge Check-In: A Fresh Look at Future MOC Assessments

Roger Bush, MD
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Member, ABIM Internal Medicine Specialty Board
Disclosure of ABIM Service: Roger Bush, MD

- I am Member of the Internal Medicine Specialty Board and the Board of Directors.

- To protect the integrity of certification, ABIM enforces strict confidentiality and ownership of exam content.

- As a Member of the Internal Medicine Specialty Board, I agree to keep exam information confidential.

- As is true for any ABIM candidate who has taken an exam for certification, I have signed the Pledge of Honesty in which I have agreed to keep ABIM exam content confidential.

- No exam questions will be disclosed in my presentation.
Mission:
To enhance the quality of health care by certifying internists and subspecialists who demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for excellent patient care.

Role:
• Defines specialties and subspecialties in internal medicine
• Vehicle for implementing professionally set standards
• “For doctors serving patients”
What the Certificate Says to External Stakeholders

Initial Certification

- Signifies a physician is ready for independent practice
- Demonstrates a doctor’s post-training knowledge and skill in a particular medical specialty or subspecialty

Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

- Signifies an internist or subspecialist is keeping current within a discipline
- Provides external stakeholders with a reassurance a physician is keeping pace with knowledge and practice
Why MOC Matters

- **Skills decline**
  - Durning, et al. (2010, J Cont Educ Health Prof)

- **Physicians ability to self-assess is limited**
  - Davis, et al. (2006, JAMA)

- **Medical knowledge advances**
  - Glynn et al. (2010, PLoS One)

- **Patients, hospitals, health systems and insurers expect it**
  - Brennan, et al. (2004, JAMA)
  - Freed et al. (2013, J Hosp Med)
The shorter, 2-year Knowledge Check-In opens in Internal Medicine and Nephrology in 2018.

The 2-year option will have an open-book feature*, as will all 10-year exams beginning in fall 2018.

The Knowledge Check-In to be rolled out to all specialties by 2020.

* Physicians will not need to have their own Up-to-Date subscription
# Knowledge Check-In Roll-Out

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

● The 2-year Knowledge Check-In is a shorter, lower-stakes assessment
  • Can be taken at home, in an office, or at a testing facility
  • Initially, assessment will cover the breadth of discipline
  • Testing time is currently estimated to be between two and three hours

● The Knowledge Check-In offers more continuous frequent feedback and identifies opportunities for improvement

● Physicians do not need a passing score on every 2-year assessment

● Assessments are only offered on alternating years in each discipline

● Those who take an assessment in the first year it is offered in that discipline do so with “no consequences”
No Consequence Assessment in the First Year Offered in a Specialty

- Unsuccessful performance on 2-year assessment won’t negatively impact certification or MOC participation status
  - Diplomates who attempt the Knowledge Check-In in the year it is first offered in a subspecialty and are unsuccessful will have an opportunity to attempt it again before being required to take the traditional MOC exam, even if it is the year their assessment is due.
  - This way, the physician community can gain important insights into the experience of taking this new form of assessment.

- “No consequence” doesn’t mean physicians can skip the assessment
  - Failure to take an assessment if it is due in the first year the Knowledge Check-In is offered will result in loss of certification.
2-Year Assessment Option: Performance Results

Performance results will be available for some immediately after the assessment, with detailed score reports available within three to four weeks.

Detailed score report shown below
2018 Knowledge Check-In and 10-yr registrations:

Knowledge Check-In

- Spring: 723 registrations
- Fall: 4,050 registrations

10-yr

- Spring: 2,082 registrations
- Fall: 3,728 registrations

Breakdown of diplomates registered for 2018 Knowledge Check-In:

- 59% due in 2018
- 28% due in 2019
- 8% due in 2020
- <1% due in 2021 - 2027
- <1% Grandfather

2018 Knowledge Check-In Remote and Test Center registrations:

- 58% remote registrations
- 42% test center registrations
KCI – Additional Updates

Pending Results
System Check

- No questions regarding pending status
- No reported issues of failure to complete system check on exam day

Greeters

- Adding offshore greeters to handle higher volume in the fall
- Offshore greeters will meet quality standards

Technical Support

- Outsourcing technical support to an external IT vendor
- Vendor to troubleshoot computer issues and support system check
In general, physicians will need to pass either the Knowledge Check-in or the long-form exam within 10 years of their last pass of the long-form exam.

Physicians can wait until the year they are due to decide which assessment option they want.

Physicians with certifications that expire before the new assessment option is offered in their specialty will still need to take and pass the current 10-year exam in order to maintain their certification.

Once a physician passes the 10-year exam, he or she will have 10 years before needing to pass another assessment, either 2 or 10.
What If a Physician Doesn’t Do Well on a 2-Year Assessment?

- Certification can’t be lost as a result of a single unsuccessful performance on a 2-year assessment.
- For most diplomates, if unsuccessful on two consecutive attempts, it will then be necessary to pass the long-form exam to maintain certification.
# Knowledge Check-In Scenarios

*For an Assessment Due in 2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physicians Due in 2019</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>Next Step</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: 2025" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: &quot;no-consequence&quot; FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: 2025" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: 2025" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: &quot;no-consequence&quot; FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Traditional MOC Exam: 2022" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: 2031" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: PASS" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Knowledge Check-In: FAIL" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Traditional MOC Exam: 2024" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Early Engagement Scenario:
For a certificate due in 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diplomate</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Next Step</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Check-In: Pass</td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate A</td>
<td>Chooses not to engage early</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate B</td>
<td></td>
<td>Check-In: Fail</td>
<td>Traditional MOC exam in 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate B</td>
<td>Chooses not to engage early</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate C</td>
<td>Check-In: Pass</td>
<td>Check-In: Fail</td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate D</td>
<td>Check-In: Fail</td>
<td>Check-In: Pass</td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Switching Between MOC Pathways

- Doctors can switch between the 2-year and the 10-year assessment options
  - You can try the Knowledge Check-In and can easily go back to the 10-year exam if you find it works better for you.
  - Physicians who fail the Knowledge Check-In can switch back to the traditional 10-year MOC exam and keep their original assessment due date.
  - Physicians can take and fail the Knowledge Check-In, even multiple times, without having to take the traditional 10-year MOC exam—as long as it has been less than 10 years since they last passed an MOC exam. This means if you want to try the Knowledge Check-In and find that it doesn’t work for you, you’ll still have the option of going back to the traditional 10-year MOC exam and won’t need to take it any sooner than you originally needed to.
New Inactive Status

- We have heard concerns from physicians who may no longer have an active medical license that a certification status of “Not Certified” does not accurately reflect their standing within the physician community.

- ABIM’s Board of Directors has approved a new certification status for diplomates who, for non-disciplinary reasons, no longer have an active medical license and therefore are clinically inactive. ABIM will now report the Board Certification status for those physicians as “Inactive.”
Rule Changes Specifically for Hospitalists

- Dual-boarded hospitalists, currently earning reciprocal credit, are now able to apply for entry in the Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine (FPHM) program and earn the designation of “Certified in Internal Medicine with a Focused Practice in Hospital Medicine.”

- Physicians currently in the FPHM program, who are also participating in another American Board of Medical Specialties Member Board’s MOC program, can apply for reciprocal credit and have their ABIM MOC point requirement waived.
Complete at least one MOC Activity* to be reported as participating in MOC

Earn 100 MOC Points*, 20 in Medical Knowledge to stay certified

*20 Medical Knowledge Points for each take of the Knowledge Check-In or first attempt of MOC exam will meet 2-year participation requirement and count toward 5-year points requirement.
How to Earn MOC Points

- **Medical Knowledge**
  - ABIM activities are included in your MOC fee. Medical Knowledge modules allow you to self-assess while earning CME credit.
  - Visit cmefinder.org for thousands of CME activities that also earn MOC points.
  - Earn 20 points by taking either the 2-year or 10-year MOC exam.

- **Practice Assessment** (Not Required)
  - Earn MOC points when you complete a QI/PI activity through the ABMS Portfolio Program or ABIM Approved Quality Improvement program.
  - Program Directors and faculty can earn 20 MOC points annually for participation in GME-related QI/PI activities.
  - Visit cmefinder.org for QI/PI activities that earn both CME and MOC points.

- **Fellowship training credit**
  - Earn 20 points annually for eligible fellowship training.

- **Certification through another ABMS board**
  - The ABIM MOC point requirement can be waived if you are currently certified by and meeting the MOC requirements of another board.

Note: All points earned count toward all certificates being maintained
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 2014 – May 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total MOC Points Earned</td>
<td>7,651,545.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unique Diplomates Earning Points</td>
<td>123,576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABIM Portal: Profile Page

MY PROFILE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Elizabeth Deveraux Montgomery
ABIM ID#: 7897892

- You are being reported on the public site as “Participating in MOC.”
- Critical Care Medicine, Participating in MOC
- Pulmonary Disease, Participating in MOC
- Internal Medicine, Not Participating in MOC

CONTACT INFORMATION

LICENSE INFORMATION

MEDICAL SCHOOL
ABIM Portal: Check Your Status
What Isn’t Changing

- Pride and meaning in being ABIM Board certified
- A credential with real performance standards behind it
- **Something in which colleagues and patients can place their trust**
  - ABIM is “Of the profession, for the public”
For More Information...

- Visit www.abim.org to see FAQs and view your MOC status report
- Subscribe to blog.abim.org for regular updates
- Call: 1-800-441-ABIM (2246)
- Email: request@abim.org
Questions?
Thank you!