Making Sense of MOC

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Chair-Emeritus, ACP Board of Regents
Disclosure of ABIM Service:
Yul D. Ejnes, MD, MACP

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

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

- As a Member, Board of Directors and a Member, 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.*
My Journey

- “Grandfather” at age 28 (1988)
- 2001 ACP Annual Session

Young physicians and College Governors voice concerns about the burdens of recertification and the disparities it creates among physicians.

- 2006 – Chair, ACP Board of Governors
- 2011 – Chair, ACP Board of Regents
The Issues “Back Then”

- Earning Knowledge Credit/The SEP Modules
- Practice Improvement/Patient and Peer Satisfaction Survey
- The Secure, Closed-book Exam
- “Make recertification attractive to grandfathers”
Changes Were Slow

- Additional options for “Medical Knowledge” – MKSAP, others
- Credit for “practice improvement” activities done for others (but a hassle to get that credit)
- No changes in the exam
My Journey

- 2013 – Enrolled in MOC
- 2014 – Joined ABIM Internal Medicine Specialty Board
- 7/2016 – Joined ABIM Board of Directors
- 10/2016 – Took secure exam (first since 1988)
Recent Changes

- Governance restructuring
  - Board of Directors
  - Specialty Boards
- Expanded educational activity options for MOC credit – ACCME collaboration
- Practice improvement activities not required
  - MOC credit still given
  - Additional options – NCQA PCMH, others
Recent Changes: The Exam

- Differentiation of certification and MOC exams
  - New blueprint for MOC only – community practicing internists participated in design
  - Questions tagged not for use on MOC exam – pathophysiology, rare/low-impact conditions
- Open Book
- Knowledge Check-ins
- Collaborative Maintenance Pathway
ABIM’s Approach to Innovation

In collaboration with the community, creating a framework – and credential – through which doctors, their patients and their colleagues KNOW that they are staying current in knowledge and practice.
New road layout ahead
Transforming Relationships with the Internal Medicine Community

Close to **40,000** **PEOPLE** have given ABIM their thoughts and insights.

We are **LISTENING**. Please keep **ENGAGING** with us. Your feedback is a major **INFLUENCE** on how we craft our program.

- **Visited 13 CITIES in 10 STATES**
- **Held 26 FOCUS GROUPS with 255 PARTICIPANTS**
- **27 MEDICAL SOCIETIES**
- **2,595 REGISTERED MEMBERS**
  - In our new Community Insights Network
- **29,480 SURVEY RESPONSES** From physicians
The 2-Year Assessment Model
How the Decision Was Made

- Surveys, focus groups and widespread community engagement around the two and five-year model potential options
- Feedback from society staff and volunteer leadership
- Recommendations and analysis provided by ABIM staff experts
The 2-Year Assessment Model
How the Decision Was Made

- ABIM Council reviewed all input
- Shorter, lower-stakes assessment every 2 years emerged as option offering greatest choice, relevance and convenience – and confidence they are staying current
- 2-year model also offered more flexibility to focus future assessments on a subset of knowledge relevant to practice
The shorter, 2-year Knowledge Check-In opens in *Internal Medicine* and *Nephrology* in 2018.

The 10-year and 2-year options will have an **open-book** feature for IM and Nephrology in spring 2018; all 10-year exams will be open book in fall 2018.

The Knowledge Check-In to be rolled out to all specialties by 2020.
Open book and the Knowledge Check-In:

- Physicians will be able to access UpToDate® through exam platform during 2018 Knowledge Check-Ins for IM and Nephrology
- All Knowledge Check-Ins to feature UpToDate once launched in discipline
Open book availability for traditional MOC Exam:

- Spring 2018: Physicians will be able to access UpToDate through the exam platform for part of IM and Nephrology traditional MOC exams
- All other spring 2018 traditional MOC exams will be entirely closed book
- Fall 2018: All other traditional 10-year MOC exams beginning in fall 2018 will feature access to UpToDate.

Physicians won’t need their own UpToDate accounts for access during exams.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>Advanced Heart Failure &amp; Transplant Cardiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nephrology</td>
<td>Geriatric Medicine</td>
<td>Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism</td>
<td>Critical Care Medicine</td>
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<td>Gastroenterology</td>
<td>Hospice &amp; Palliative Medicine</td>
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<td>Rheumatology</td>
<td>Sleep Medicine</td>
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<td>Transplant Hepatology</td>
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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
Knowledge Check-In
2-Year Assessment Overview

- 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.
- Those who take assessment in the first year it is offered in that discipline do so with no consequences.
- Assessments are only offered on alternating years in each discipline.
“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.
Physicians Whose Certification Expires Before 2-Year Assessment Is Available

- 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.
- Allowing certification to lapse will prevent a physician from entering the 2-year assessment pathway.
- 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.
By When Must a Physician Pass an Assessment?

- 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.

- This assessment due date is displayed on a physician’s MOC Status page for each certificate being maintained.

- Physicians can wait until the year they are due to decide which assessment option they want.
### 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate A</td>
<td><em>Chooses not to engage early</em></td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Fail</strong></td>
<td>Traditional MOC exam in 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate B</td>
<td><em>Chooses not to engage early</em></td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Pass</strong></td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate C</td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Pass</strong></td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Fail</strong></td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diplomate D</td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Fail</strong></td>
<td>Check-In: <strong>Pass</strong></td>
<td>Continue on Knowledge Check-In next assessment in 2024</td>
</tr>
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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 take the long-form exam to maintain certification.
2-Year Assessment Option: Performance Results

Performance results (i.e., whether successful or not) will be available for most immediately after the assessment, with more feedback to follow.

Detailed score report (available a few weeks after assessment):
Other MOC Requirements Still Apply

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. Update modules allow you to self-assess knowledge while earning CME credit.
  - Learning Sessions allow you to learn in an interactive environment
  - Thousands of CME activities from other organizations count for MOC

● **Take an Exam**
  - Earn points by taking either the 2-year exam or the 10-year exam

● **Practice Assessment** (Not Required)

● **Fellowship training credit**
  - 20 MOC points annually for eligible fellowship training

Note: All points earned count toward all certificates being maintained
ABIM Collaboration with Societies

- Shared Goal: Maintenance and support of a community of lifelong learners who hold ourselves accountable to peer-defined standards
- Mutual desire to explore innovative ways to better integrate lifelong learning activities with a performance-based assessment, recognize specialization and focused practice
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”
ABIM’s 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
For More Information…

- Visit www.abim.org to see FAQs and view your MOC status report
- Subscribe to transforming.abim.org blog for regular updates
- Call: 1-800-441-ABIM (2246)
- Email: request@abim.org
Share Your Feedback with ABIM

1. On your phone or laptop, go to: abim.cnf.io

2. Click “Knowledge Check-In: A Fresh Look at Future MOC Assessments”

3. Answer the question
Questions?
Thank you!