



September 8, 2017

Dear ACP Members,

I am writing to update you on recent developments related to the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program, our progress toward creating a new ACP society pathway that would be an alternative to what ABIM offers, and our continuing efforts to advocate on your behalf to improve the MOC process.

ACP, the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) have each signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ABIM to guide the creation of new collaborative maintenance pathways, which would be alternatives to what ABIM currently offers to earn points for maintenance of certification. ACP's pathway will be based on our Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP), anchored in the principles of continuous learning, and will be free to ACP members who have already purchased MKSAP. The collaborative maintenance pathways would be offered in addition and as alternatives to pathways offered by ABIM, such as the 10-year secure exam or the two-year approach. Once ACP's pathway is developed, ABIM would continue to be the certifier, but ACP would attest to ABIM that a member has successfully completed the MKSAP-based pathway. The collective goal of ACP, ACC and ASCO is for the new collaborative maintenance pathways to lead to more subspecialty societies offering additional pathways.

ACP continues to advocate for other meaningful changes to MOC. Our discussions with national and state medical societies have focused on the usefulness of a high-stakes exam, costs of the MOC process, state legislative activities that threaten professional self-regulation, and working with certifying boards to ensure physician self-regulation. We will be meeting with national and state medical societies in the coming months to work toward a joint statement of purpose enabling collaboration between medical specialty societies and certifying boards and addressing state legislative action that undermines professional self-regulation. We will also be meeting with leaders from major medical specialty societies and several certifying boards to initiate a planned, year-long process of collaboration to develop a shared vision for the next generation of continuing certification to better meet physician needs.

I will continue to provide updates on our progress toward developing ACP's MKSAP-based alternate pathway for demonstration of continuous professional development that meets criteria for maintenance of certification, and on our collaborative efforts with our professional society colleagues to address broader issues related to this process. Thank you for your commitment to internal medicine and for being a member of ACP.

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