



December 1, 2016

Dear ACP Members,

As I conclude my third month as ACP's EVP/CEO, I want to let you know of a new development that has potential to ease the burden and increase the relevance of the American Board of Internal Medicine's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, and is anchored in the principles of continuous learning.

In September, I participated in a group meeting of internal medicine subspecialties to discuss the possibility of an alternative MOC pathway offered through professional societies. The group presented a proposal and recommendations to ABIM's leadership. The ABIM engaged three societies – ACP, the American College of Cardiology, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology – to explore piloting new MOC pathways. If the pilots go forward, and if they are successful, they would be expanded to more internal medicine subspecialty groups, adding more professional society pathways. These would be in addition to any pathways offered by ABIM, such as the current 10-year secure exam, or the two or five-year approaches that ABIM may develop.

Details about the pilot program and the specifics of professional society pathways for MOC, including a time frame, have yet to be determined and will be discussed with ABIM over the coming weeks. ACP will fashion an MOC option that is rooted in the principles of lifelong learning, is relevant to your daily practice, meets your professional needs as well as the needs of your patients, is convenient, and offers an alternative to taking a secure exam. ACP is proposing to ABIM a pathway that would be based on our Medical Knowledge and Self-Assessment Program, (MKSAP), which has helped physicians update and assess their knowledge in internal medicine since 1968. If these society pathways are developed, ABIM would continue to be the certifier, but societies would attest to ABIM that a member has successfully completed the society pathway.

I, along with other ACP staff, will meet with ABIM in the next several weeks to discuss the pilot program and ACP's proposed society model in more detail. Our hope is that this society pilot program will provide helpful data on best practices and lead to more subspecialty societies offering society pathways. While we are working to get a society pilot in place as quickly as possible, it will take time. In the meantime, continue with your current plans and assume that the ABIM's current policies remain in place until you hear otherwise from them. We will continue to advocate to improve ABIM's MOC process to ensure it progresses to increase relevance and value for you. We will keep you updated as this process evolves.

Thank you for being an ACP member, for your commitment to internal medicine and for supporting the College as we work to increase the quality and effectiveness of professional development options for our members.

Darilyn V. Moyer, MD, FACP
Executive Vice President and CEO
American College of Physicians