



Advancing Rheumatology!

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March 24, 2016

Dear ACR members,

Based on the advocacy efforts of the ACR and in collaboration with other subspecialties there have recently been a number of changes to the ABIM's MOC program that I would like to share with you.

Examination Format

This week [ABIM announced](#) that they have launched a study to examine ways ABIM diplomates might have access to online resources during a portion of the MOC assessment. A change in format supports the [ACR's position](#) that the current secure, closed-book, high-stakes examination is not appropriate for recertification. ABIM promises a timeline and plan in the upcoming weeks. As ACR recognizes that assessment drives learning, we will continue to engage with the ABIM to advocate for meaningful change. If you received an invitation from the ABIM to participate in this study we encourage you to participate.

Examination Content

[ABIM is also seeking feedback](#) from board-certified rheumatologists to ensure that the MOC exam content (referred to as the blueprint) appropriately covers disease areas and concepts that are reflective of a practicing rheumatologist. **To impact the fall 2016 examination, ABIM needs input from as many rheumatologists as possible by March 31.** After March 31, ABIM will continue to collect feedback through September 2016 that will be used for future examinations.

Access the review tool through your ABIM "My Home Page" after logging into www.abim.org. Then click on the link "Rate exam topics with our Blueprint Review Tool." You can choose to review one section, multiple sections or the entire blueprint. It is estimated that it will take 15 to 20 minutes to rate each blueprint section.

Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs)

Following the [extended suspension](#) of the Patient Assessment, Patient Voice and Patient Safety requirements through December 31, 2018 the ABIM announced the retirement of their PIMs on February 10, 2016. Diplomates have until April 22, 2016 to complete open ABIM PIMs for MOC points. ACR's AIM:RA and AIM:Gout PIM modules have also retired. If you have any questions about this, please contact education@rheumatology.org.

The ACR continues to advocate that the ABIM should not reinstate the Practice Assessment, Patient Voice and Patient Safety requirements as part of the recertification process because they are redundant with existing requirements.

Medical Knowledge Modules

In December 2015, ABIM partnered with ACCME to allow more activities approved for CME to also be approved for MOC. As such, ACR can offer MOC points for more activities members are already participating in. ACR will continue to release its annual CARE module in September and CARE: MOC Sessions during the annual meeting. In addition, a new CARE program will be pilot tested at the 2017 ACR State-of-the-Art Clinical Symposium. Attendees will be able to earn MOC points for no additional fees at the annual meeting and SOTA.

If you currently use the ABIM's medical knowledge modules please note they have reduced their offerings. ABIM is offering only one version of the annual update modules at a time which will be released in the first quarter each year and be discontinued at the end of the first quarter the following year. ABIM's 2016 Update in Rheumatology module will be available through March 31, 2017. The 2015 and 2014 rheumatology modules will retire on June 30, 2016.

ACR MOC Advocacy

ACR leadership remains committed to working on behalf of you and the rheumatology community to urge ABIM to continue reforming MOC. Next month we will provide further demonstration of our advocacy efforts and updates on this process of MOC reform.

If at any time you need assistance, please send an email to the ABIM at request@abim.org or to the ACR at education@rheumatology.org. To review the ACR's most recent responses to MOC reform, visit our [website](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Von Feldt', written in a cursive style.

Joan Von Feldt, MD, MEd
ACR President