



Advancing Rheumatology!

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Sent via email

Dear ACR members,

On Wednesday, the [ABIM announced](#) that beginning in 2018, physicians certified in internal medicine can choose to take shorter “knowledge check-in” assessments from their personal or work computer every two years. If you are unsuccessful on two consecutive assessments, or if there is a longer gap between assessments, you will need to take additional steps to maintain certification. Physicians can still choose to take an assessment every 10 years in a testing center. The ABIM stated they have prioritized making the 10-year exam open-book. A timeline for the availability of the knowledge check-ins for subspecialties was not provided.

It is the ACR's position that a secure, closed-book, high-stakes examination is not appropriate for the purpose of recertification and should be eliminated. Following a presentation from Richard Baron, MD, ABIM President and CEO to the ACR Board of Directors last month, we believe the ABIM is not likely to eliminate the summative component of the new assessment, despite requests from medical societies and the lack of evidence that summative assessments improve patient care.

To [prevent a divided internal medicine community](#), we advocated for the ABIM Council to approve open-book access, develop unobtrusive security proctor features for assessments completed at home, introduce modular content options, offer immediate remediation, and provide detailed feedback reports and transparent pricing with the new assessment. Although specific details related to these requests were not addressed in the announcement, we expect to hear more in the New Year.

While we understand this is an evolving process, we are disappointed this version of the assessment does not offer more substantive changes to support rheumatologists in their commitment to lifelong learning. We are continuing to actively work with the ABIM and other internal medicine societies to expedite more meaningful change, and we will explore all alternative options.

As new information and opportunities become available, we will continue to seek your guidance and input to ensure we are appropriately representing your needs. To review the ACR's most recent responses to MOC reform, visit our [website](#). You can also submit comments to the [ABIM](#) or to the [ACR](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sharad Lakhanpal, MBBS, MD
ACR President