



Advancing Rheumatology!

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December 17, 2015

Dear Members,

Yesterday the [American Board of Internal Medicine](#) announced they will further suspend the Practice Assessment, Patient Voice and Patient Safety requirements in its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program through December 31, 2018.

The ACR is encouraged by this extension and believes the ABIM should not reinstate these requirements. The ABIM's decision was based on feedback from the subspecialty community, including the [ACR's MOC position statement](#) and response to [ABIM's Assessment 2020 Task Force Report](#). The ABIM is working towards a revised MOC requirement that aims to recognize activities that physicians are currently doing. The ACR has requested that the ABIM reassess the need for this recognition. We believe that the ABIM requirement for quality improvement is redundant and unnecessarily burdensome and that it is excessive to require physicians to **report** to ABIM that they have participated in these activities.

What's next?

ABIM has given top priority to changing the MOC exam: Changing the MOC exam aligns with the ACR's position that the current secure, closed book, high-stakes examination is not appropriate for recertification. The ACR considers an open-book examination or CME activities with assessments to be more appropriate options for confirming that physicians are keeping up with medical knowledge in their field.

We Need Your Participation: MOC reform is a work in progress and the devil will be in the details. To help inform the process ABIM has released a diplomate survey to test four formats to replace the 10-year secure MOC exam. I urge you to complete the survey. A link to the survey was included in a personalized email from ABIM. You can also access the survey through your ABIM "My Home Page" after logging into [ABIM.org](#). The survey will be open until January 18, 2016.

To review the ACR's most recent MOC responses visit our [website](#).

The ACR leadership remains committed to working with you and the ABIM to help expedite evolution.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Joan Von Feldt, MD, MEd
ACR President