



Share Your Opinion on MOC

September 8, 2016

Dear ACR members,

Yesterday, the ABIM released two possible models for an alternative to the 10-year secure ABIM MOC examination. The ABIM will determine in November which model - the 2-year pathway or the 5-year pathway - will move forward in development. The selected model will launch in 2018, alongside the current 10-year secure MOC examination, and will start with internal medicine and one or two subspecialties.

ABIM diplomates should have received a notification with a link to a survey via email. We encourage you to complete the ABIM's survey. If you did not receive the email from the ABIM, additional information is available [here](#). We believe the ABIM is working toward improving the MOC program and that this is an evolving process. However, we are concerned the changes as currently proposed may not be significant enough to meet the needs of rheumatologists in their commitment to lifelong learning.

URGENT REQUEST FOR YOUR FEEDBACK: The ACR leadership will be meeting with ABIM representatives next week to discuss the proposed models. To ensure the ACR is accurately representing your opinions, I urge you to complete the ACR's independent [survey](#) and vote for your preferred MOC exam model by Monday, Sept. 12.

It is the [ACR's position](#) that the current secure, closed-book, high-stakes 10-year MOC examination is not an appropriate means for assessing clinical knowledge or decision making for the purpose of recertification and should be eliminated. We believe current CME activities that include assessment and demonstrate educational benefit should be considered appropriate assessment tools for MOC. We believe that assessments can be structured to effectively evaluate the acquisition of new knowledge and application of understanding while eliminating the burden of a high-stakes examination. Therefore, we will request that the ABIM provide more information on their plans to consider open-book access, security proctor features, adequate time for completion of assessments, and how the new pathway will meet the ABIM's goal of reducing physician anxiety.

In addition, before instituting a new MOC model, we believe a full and transparent accounting of ABIM costs and an estimate of the costs to be borne by individual physicians is essential. We feel

strongly that a reduction in cost commensurate with the reduction in the scope of the MOC program should be instituted.

Before you complete the ACR's survey, here are a few things to consider:

- The 5-year pathway will provide five hours of testing time and may be composed of approximately 150 single-best answer multiple-choice questions; the 2-year pathway will provide two hours of testing time and may be composed of approximately 60 questions.
- Both pathways are true maintenance pathways. Therefore, only certified physicians will be eligible to participate in the new pathway when it becomes available.
- Both pathways will cover the breadth of the discipline, meaning all [13 rheumatology MOC content categories](#) will be covered.
- As mentioned above, details related to open-book access, security requirements, and costs to physicians have not yet been released.

The ABIM is encouraging feedback, and ACR leadership believes it is in our best interest to continue to actively participate in this process. Thank you for completing both the ABIM and [ACR surveys](#) and for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Joan Von Feldt, MD, MEd
ACR President



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