



MOC Update

August 1, 2016

Dear ACR members,

Earlier this year the ABIM solicited feedback from board-certified rheumatologists to ensure the MOC exam content (referred to as the blueprint) appropriately covers disease areas and concepts that are reflective of a practicing rheumatologist. **Based on this feedback, the ABIM released an updated [Rheumatology MOC exam blueprint](#) last week.** The fall 2016 ABIM Rheumatology MOC secure exam and all future exams (also called MOC assessments) will be based on the new blueprint.

What does a blueprint change mean for rheumatologists?

- ACR members should review the new blueprint to understand how this will impact exam questions.
- If you are planning to take the Rheumatology MOC exam this fall, you need to schedule your exam with [Pearson VUE](#) by August 15 if you haven't already done so.

The ABIM will continue to collect feedback through September 2016 that may be used for future examinations. You can access the survey through your ABIM *My Home Page* after logging into [ABIM.org](#) and selecting the *Rate exam topics with our Blueprint Review Tool* link.

Additionally, as of May 5, the ABIM announced plans to examine the format of the secure examination and is considering [alternatives](#) to the 10-year MOC exam. Shorter, more frequent assessments that physicians can choose to take on their personal or office computer will be available for physicians maintaining certification in internal medicine in January 2018.

What does a format change mean for rheumatologists?

- If your internal medicine and/or rheumatology certificates expire by Dec. 31, 2016 and/or Dec. 31, 2017, you must pass the 10-year examination and complete all MOC requirements to remain certified.
- If your internal medicine and/or rheumatology certificates expire after Dec. 31, 2017, you can expect to have an alternative to the 10-year exam for internal medicine.
- At this stage, the timeline for specialty exams, including rheumatology, has not been released.
- Because the new option will be a truly "maintenance" pathway, only certified physicians will be eligible to participate in this new MOC assessment option when it becomes available.

[Learn more about the changes >](#)

We appreciate the ABIM's efforts to make a more clinically relevant exam available and the ABIM Rheumatology Board [members'](#) leadership in promoting change. We also want to acknowledge the time and effort devoted by the ACR members who responded to the survey.

We will continue to advocate that the ABIM Board and ABIM Rheumatology Board dedicate all efforts and resources to eliminating a secure, closed-book, high-stakes MOC examination.

As always, [ACR staff](#) are available to assist with questions. To review the ACR's most recent responses to MOC reform, visit our [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Joan Von Feldt, MD, MEd
ACR President



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E-mail: acr@rheumatology.org | Phone: +1 (404) 633-3777