



October 24, 2014

Dear ACP members,

I am writing to update you on ACP's recent efforts related to the American Board of Internal Medicine's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. In response to concerns about participation in MOC being used as a criterion for credentialing or licensure, ACP's Board of Regents approved a policy statement (http://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/statement_on_moc_and_licensure_2014.pdf) making it clear that ACP does not support applying ABIM's current MOC process as a necessary or sole criterion to identify and recognize competence and quality of care. Although ACP encourages voluntary participation in MOC, the statement emphasizes that participation in MOC should not be an absolute prerequisite for state licensure, hospital credentialing, or health plan (insurer) credentialing. Instead, decisions about licensure and credentialing should be based on the physician's performance in his or her practice setting and a broader set of criteria for assessing competence, professionalism, commitment to continuous professional development, and quality of care provided.

As mentioned in the last email update of August 21, ABIM is supportive of the change we are proposing for public web pages that report participation in MOC. Both ACP and ABIM are advocating to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) that the ABIM and ABMS websites should state whether a physician is "Participating in MOC" rather than "Meeting MOC requirements." This would eliminate the potential confusion of someone who has a time-unlimited certificate but is not participating in MOC being reported as 'not meeting requirements,' when MOC was not actually required.

In addition, ABIM has convened a small workgroup to explore possible changes in the secure examination to make it more relevant and authentic to practice. Whatever changes might be made in the secure examination, we recognize that modifying the examination process would take significant time to develop and implement while still ensuring the integrity of the process, even if done as fast as possible.

Finally, ACP is pleased to announce the launch of the ACP MOC Navigator (<http://www.acponline.org/mocnavigator>), a new interactive tool developed to help guide ACP members through the MOC process and select ways to meet requirements and earn points. The MOC Navigator provides an easy-to-use, step-by-step interface to help make decisions about participating in the program, learn about enrollment in the program, understand the requirements, and discover resources to help earn points and prepare for the final examination. It also provides recommendations for ways to meet the requirements that fit best with your specific preferences and professional situation. I hope you find it helpful.

We are encouraged by ABIM's interest in listening to our concerns and acting to address them. We will continue to advocate for changes that increase relevance and add value to the MOC process, and we will continue to update you as changes are being considered and/or made.

Sincerely,

Steven Weinberger, MD, FACP Executive Vice President and CEO

