



**American Board
of Medical Specialties**

Higher standards. Better care.®

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program Enhancements Offer Value to Participating Physicians

American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and its 24 Member Boards are committed to delivering MOC programs that deliver value to participating physicians. Working with physicians across specialties and practice settings, the Boards are implementing substantive enhancements that combine best practices in adult learning with state of the art technology, resulting in programs that are more practice relevant, flexible and easy to use. Following is a sampling of some of the important, value-added enhancements being implemented by various Member Boards.

Enhancing Practice Relevance

- Offering alternatives to the high-stakes exam provides physicians opportunities to customize the assessment to reflect their practice.
- Instituting a Focused Practice designation allows physicians in approved focused practice areas to tailor a program of continuing certification to their narrow area of practice.
- Incorporating outside resources and reference materials into assessments reflects how physicians access and use information in practice.
- Providing immediate feedback on whether a physician answers a question correctly and references that support the correct answer helps physicians identify knowledge gaps and learning needs and directs them to relevant education materials.

Greater Flexibility

- Offering shorter, formative assessments that are delivered periodically online gives physicians more control and flexibility and eliminates the need to take time off for prep-courses.
- Expanding access to pre-approved continuing medical education (CME) and self-assessment activities through the ABMS Continuing Certification Directory and the CME Finder of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) makes it easier for physicians to find CME activities that meet their Boards' MOC requirements.
- Expanding opportunities for physicians to get MOC credit for activities they already do in their practice reduces duplication and burden, and include:
 - Quality improvement and practice improvement activities physicians do in their practice.
 - Improvement activities available in hospitals or organizational sponsors of the ABMS Multi-specialty Portfolio Program.
 - Participating in data registries sponsored by medical specialty societies.
 - Physician scientists' and physician executives' participation in their educational, research, and administrative roles.

Easier to Use

- Administering assessments online allows physicians to access and answer questions at their convenience, eliminating the need to travel to testing centers.
- Streamlining MOC reporting and tracking processes reduces time and administrative burden
 - Partnering with CME providers and ACCME to automate reporting of CME data reduces the need to retain and upload individual attendance certificates.
 - Personalized dashboards allow physicians to track progress and view program requirements.
 - Simplified application processes reduce the amount of time it takes to apply for MOC.
- Enhancing customer service and redesigning websites to make them more user-friendly and transparent.
- Increasing engagement with individual physicians and specialty societies to foster communication and collaboration within the specialty.