



# TRACERS

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

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## MOC Committee Update

*Kirk A. Frey, M.D., Ph.D., MOC Committee Chair*



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*MOC Committee Chair, ABNM*

Since our last issue of Tracers, there has been relatively little change in ABNM MOC requirements or its structure. The proposed ABMS MOC standards have been finalized and adopted for implementation in January 2015. Overall, from the diplomate's standpoint the 2015 program will look very similar to the present. ABMS has placed emphasis on the delivery of value and reduction in burden in the MOC requirements. While there are some changes in language and description, the new standards largely follow the current program. The four part structure is the same, but the names have been changed to reflect the change in emphasis:

- Part I - Professionalism and Professional Standing
- Part II – Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
- Part III – Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment and Skills
- Part IV – Improvement in Medical Practice

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is trying to balance the need for a credible MOC program against the burden on diplomates. The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) recommended that their member medical licensing boards recognize MOC as being substantially equivalent to evolving Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) <http://www.fsmb.org/pdf/mol-fast-facts.pdf>. This recognition of the credibility of MOC for fulfilling licensure will be a big benefit for those participating in the ABNM MOC program. At the same, the 2015 standards (<http://www.abms.org/pdf/Standards%20for%20the%20ABMS%20Program%20for%20MOC%20FINAL.pdf>) state:

“Each ABMS Member Board will work to enhance the value of its Program for MOC and the experience of diplomates engaged in its Program including taking actions to increase the Program's quality, relevance, and meaningfulness and with sensitivity to the time, administrative burden, and costs (monetary and other) associated with participation.”

Diplomates who are currently active in MOC will find that the new standards will credit their past and ongoing activities from the current ABNM MOC program. Specific aspects of the individual components will change under the new standards, with most changes reflecting improved feedback to participants, and continuation of the wide range of activities available for individuals to meet the MOC requirements. The ABNM is currently working on a specialty specific patient safety module which will both fulfill this new requirement as well as providing Part II credits. A major revision to the structure of Part II activities resulting from changes in the AMA definitions and requirements for CME activities is discussed below by Dr. Parker. This should greatly simplify fulfilling the self-assessment requirements of Part II.