



TRACERS

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

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A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

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Associate Executive Director's Message MOC 2015

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As described in the last tracers (Message from MOC Committee Chair) the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has provided the member Boards with goals for the MOC process for the next 5 years ([Standards for the ABMS Program for Maintenance of Certification \(MOC\)](#)). The good news is that there will not be any big changes; although there has been some shift in emphasis. This shift in emphasis has been reflected in a change in the names of 3 of the parts of MOC. At the summer meeting, the ABNM voted to adopt the new names:

- Part 1 – Professionalism and professional Standing (formerly, Professional Standing)
- Part 2 – Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
- Part 3 – Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment and Skills (formerly, Cognitive Expertise)
- Part 4 – Improvement in Medical Practice (formerly, Practice Performance Assessment)

The change in Part 1's emphasis will be the inclusion of professionalism learning. The ABNM is planning to address this requirement through a professionalism learning activity. Another emphasis will be patient safety. The ABNM will be providing patient safety modules which can be used to fulfill this requirement.

The ABMS is sensitive to the burden which MOC places on Diplomates. One of the 2015 goals specifically addresses this issue:

“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.”

To minimize burden, the new requirements for professionalism and patient safety learning will provide Part 2 credit. The total credit requirement will remain the same. In addition, the ABNM now accepts [AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™](#), types 2 (enduring materials) and 3 (journal-based articles) for self-assessment credit. Enduring materials and journal-based articles are referred to as SA-CME. Activities called self-assessment modules, SAM, SA-CME, or type 2 or 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ all count toward the yearly 8 self-assessment credit requirement in Part 2 of MOC.

The ABMS is encouraging its member boards to experiment with new methods of fulfilling the Part 3 requirement. The ABNM would like to make the MOC exam more useful for learning and less anxiety provoking for diplomates. The article by Dr. Frey describes an enhancement to the MOC exam which is intended to improve the learning by providing a study guide for the exam. Studying for the exam will be another method of earning Part 2 credit. Furthermore, since a portion of the questions on the exam will be taken from articles in the study guide, we hope to lessen anxiety about the exam. We will also be watching what other boards are trying seeing how we can apply successful methods to our MOC exam.

The Multi-specialty MOC Portfolio Approval Program (<http://mocportfolioprogram.org>) provides a mechanism for an organization such as a hospital to obtain Part 4 approval from many of the ABMS Boards for group quality improvement projects. The ABNM is engaged in becoming one of the participating Boards. If your organization participates in this program, the advantage for you as an individual is that you automatically obtain Part 4 credit for institutional quality improvement projects in which you already participate.