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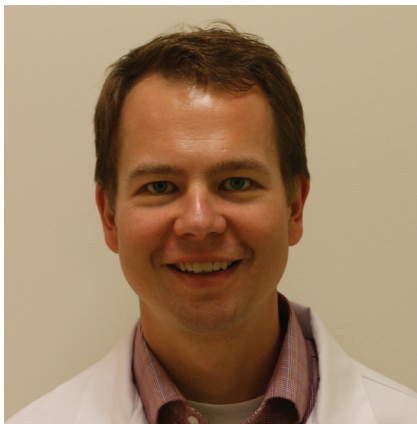
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New Assessment Initiative— ABMS MOC Part III Pilot: ABNM CertLink™



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Maintenance of Certification (MOC) has, unfortunately, taken on many negative connotations both in the press as well as in the minds of many practicing physicians. However, the overarching goals of MOC—requiring, encouraging and facilitating practicing physicians to continue to learn, adapt and evolve to new developments in our specialties throughout our careers—are excellent and widely supported ones. First generation MOC programs, though, did little to facilitate the lifelong learning that MOC hopes to foster and instead caused consternation through new requirements and periodic high-stakes exams. Rather than abandon the excellent principles of MOC, we are embarking on an entirely new way of delivering MOC through the ABNM's participation in the pilot CertLink™ Assessment Platform sponsored by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

Briefly, CertLink™ is a platform that allows continuous assessment of knowledge delivered in a way that provides immediate feedback and learning with the opportunity to show evidence of that learning on subsequent similar questions. During the five-year pilot program, participating diplomates will answer online questions on a quarterly basis with 13 questions per quarter (one per week). With flexibility in mind, a diplomate may choose to answer the questions all at once or spaced however it suits scheduling constraints, preference, etc. Each question is expected to take only 1-2 minutes to answer (though some image-rich questions may take longer but never more than 5 minutes). Upon submitting an answer, the diplomate will immediately receive feedback on the correct answer with an explanation,

key points and references for further reading. Some of the questions answered incorrectly will be presented again to the diplomate in the next quarter; if answered correctly full credit will be given. Successful participation in CertLink™ will take the place of the secure MOC exam. This is, we believe, clear evidence that CertLink™ is about helping our diplomates achieve the principles of MOC rather than putting their careers into jeopardy through a high-stakes exam taken once every ten years.

The ABNM CertLink™ Pilot development is underway and is targeted for launch in late 2017. It will last for 5 years, during which time the process and platform will be evaluated and improved as needed. During the pilot, selected participants will be regularly surveyed to capture their feedback and suggestions for improvement. The results of the pilot and surveys will be analyzed to determine if this new assessment is reliable and valid and can be a permanent alternative to the current exam. The ABNM CertLink™ Pilot will be delivered through the CertLink™ platform, which is accessible via web browser or mobile app. Volunteers will be expected to commit to the duration of the pilot and provide feedback to the ABNM on the pilot. Participation in the MOC assessment pilot will allow our diplomates to have a voice and active role in creating the next generation of MOC assessment. The process will allow the diplomate to individualize the recertification process while learning. Diplomates will choose when, where and how they take questions, presented one at a time, with the ability to end a session after answering any single question. Participating diplomates with time limited certificates will have their certificate expiration date extended through their participation in CertLink™.

Longitudinal assessment represents an evolution from traditional, point-in time secure exams. In addition to being an assessment of learning, this will be an assessment for learning. The assessment will incorporate many of the features of the American Board of Anesthesiology's (ABA) MOCA Minute™. See <http://www.theaba.org/MOCA/MOCA-Minute> for more information on their program. The ABNM has heard your concerns about the secure MOC examination and the relevance of MOC to your practice. Assessments offered through the CertLink™ platform are intended to offer exposure to relevant information to support diplomates' lifelong learning. The assessment is also expected to fulfil the ABNM's mission to protect the public by ensuring that diplomates are current in their medical knowledge.

We will begin with a small number of diplomates initially and then expand open enrollment. A significant challenge to make this assessment relevant for all ABNM diplomates will be developing a sufficiently large and diverse enough item bank of questions to be able to offer academic and practice relevant assessment. To this end, we have already received excellent and greatly appreciated assistance from members of the American College of Nuclear Medicine (ACNM) but appreciate all volunteers, including residents and fellows, who may want to participate in item writing. Please do not hesitate to contact us at abnm@abnm.org with questions, comments or if you would like to volunteer.