



Associate Executive Director's Message



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Associate Executive Director

Exam Passing Score: Reference Criterion Standard

The Board employs a psychometric consultant to calculate statistics about candidate performance, test reliability, and the performance of individual items (questions) on the test, using the Rasch method. This process adjusts for the difficulty of a particular exam and the ability of the candidates taking the exam. The passing point for the certifying and MOC exams is set using the Angoff method, a reference criterion standard that is independent of the exam takers.

What all this means is that the passing point is independent of the group taking the test and the difficulty of the test. The proportion of physicians passing the test will change slightly from year to year depending on the characteristics of the group, but not on the difficulty of the exam. In 2012, the percent of diplomates who passed the MOC exam was 99%, and the percent of first time takers who passed the certifying exam was 89%. The Board has been particularly pleased with the performance of our diplomates on the MOC exam, and hopes this trend will continue.

MOC Exam

In 2010, the MOC yearly fee was \$175 and the exam fee was \$2400. In 2011, the MOC yearly fee increased to \$400 with the intention of decreasing the MOC exam fee to \$0 by 2020. In 2012, the MOC exam fee decreased to \$1845, and this year the MOC exam fee decreased to \$1640. The Board believes that transferring the cost of the exam to the yearly fee will be the more convenient for most diplomates.

The MOC exam application period is April and May each year. Mark your calendars now if you wish to take the exam in 2014. Remember you can take the exam up to 2 years before it is due without affecting the date the following exam must be taken.

New ABNM Website

The ABNM is in the process of designing a new website which should be available by the end of the year. The new website will have a new look and feel, but more importantly the underlying structure will be transformed to a more modern open source environment. The goal is to facilitate updating of the website and to allow problems to be addressed in a more timely fashion. In particular, diplomates will receive e-mails every two months, letting them know how they are progressing on their MOC requirements.

MOC 2015

The ABNM is one of the 24 member boards in American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The ABMS is developing new standards for MOC that will be available in 2015. In general, the standards will follow the current format, however, the goal is to be less granular and provide somewhat higher-level goals allowing more flexibility to individual board in terms of how these goals are best achieved for a particular specialty.