



Pennsylvania MEDICAL SOCIETY®

The undersigned organizations, representing physicians across the country, believe that the fundamental cornerstone of what it means to be a physician is three-fold: continual professional development, lifelong learning, and providing quality patient-care based on the best science and evidence to guide medical decision-making.

For years, physicians have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process. Letters have been written and numerous meetings have taken place with ABIM leadership for the purpose of expressing the high levels of dissatisfaction amongst physicians.

Physicians have attempted to work collaboratively to help the ABIM's leadership better understand that their punitive process is needlessly time consuming and takes physicians away from their patients. Physicians have demonstrated to the ABIM that the MOC process is exorbitantly and unnecessarily expensive compared to other continuing medical education activities through which medical knowledge and excellence in patient-care can be maintained and demonstrated. Most importantly, physicians have clearly expressed to the ABIM that the content and available medical resources of the secure, high-stakes computer exam bears little to no relevance to the care we render to our patients in our offices and hospitals.

During this time the ABIM has been unable to provide reliable independent evidence that a secure, high-stakes computer exam—taken every 10 years by some and for which others are "grandfathered" and therefore exempt—leads to better patient care. While the overwhelming majority of practicing physicians pass the ABIM recertification high-stakes computer exam, the test and the MOC process have no correlation to how well a doctor can take care of a patient.

Since issuing an apology for instituting their flawed MOC program, the ABIM's proposed changes to the process fails to demonstrate that their current leadership understands the messages being conveyed by practicing physicians; the proposed changes lack in both comprehensive scope and timely implementation.

It is for all of these reasons that we, the undersigned organizations, join the Pennsylvania Medical Society's position with a joint statement of NO CONFIDENCE in the Board of Directors the American Board of Internal Medicine. We believe that their current leadership is not capable of reforming the process in a timely, academically meaningful, and fiscally responsible way.

In keeping with the consensus of our members and physicians across the country, we call for the immediate replacement of the entire ABIM Board of Directors and leadership with new leadership, representative of physicians actively participating in the full-time practice of clinical medicine. The undersigned organizations would further offer to assist the ABIM and any of the ABIM subspecialties with the formation and transition to a new Board that is representative of and accountable to the physicians whom they will certify.

Our organizations are collectively committed to advocating for all our physicians on this important issue. We hope to see more meaningful progress in the coming weeks. We will explore every avenue to bring about meaningful MOC reform and will plan on keeping all our members informed on any progress made in our efforts.

[Insert organization names]

Pennsylvania Medical Society