

Audience: *All Diplomates*

SUBJECT LINE: ABIM Increases Flexibility to Maintain Certification

Expert internists and subspecialists are on the front line of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the unprecedented demands being placed on all of our board certified physicians, ABIM wants to be sure you are able to maintain your certification despite the stresses you are facing.

That's why today I am sharing an important update with you: No one will lose certification if they aren't able to complete a requirement this year.

Any physician who is currently certified and has a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirement due in 2020—including an assessment, point requirement or attestation—will now have until the end of 2021 to complete it. Physicians currently in their grace year will also be afforded an additional grace year in 2021.

We recognize that each of you faces a different situation, and many of you have been planning to take assessments in the fall. As of now, **all fall 2020 MOC assessments will be offered as planned**, so you can still take an exam this year if you'd like. We will send information later this spring about additional assessment dates in 2020 and 2021, and how to select one.

We are sending this message now so you can focus your time and attention where it is needed most: **caring for your patients and your community.**

The next few weeks and months will challenge our health care system and country like never before. Our many internal medicine colleagues—and the clinical teams that support them—have been heroic in their response, often selflessly putting their own personal safety at risk while using their superb skills to provide care for others. They have inspired all of us.

On behalf of ABIM, I want to personally thank you for all that you are doing for your patients during this time. If you are in a hotspot and treating patients suffering from COVID-19, my heart and my admiration go out to you. You are, every day, demonstrating the best of our profession. During this trying time please know the entire internal medicine community stands behind you and is here to support you however we can. Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Rich

Richard J. Baron, MD, MACP
President and CEO
American Board of Internal Medicine

Embargoed Until 12 pm ET on 4/13/20