American Board of Medical Specialties
Commitment to Support Physician Well-being

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Disclosures

• Mira Irons, MD
  • Salaried employee, American Board of Medical Specialties
  • Co-author, Human Genetics and Genomics, 4th ed. for which I receive royalties from Wiley-Blackwell
Presentation Outline

ABMS and the Member Boards Community

Continuing Certification: concerns and responses

Looking to the future

Question and Comments
ABMS and the Member Boards Community
The mission of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is to serve the public and the medical profession by improving the quality of health care through setting professional standards for lifelong certification in partnership with Member Boards.
ABMS Member Boards

24 Independent Member Boards | 40 Specialties and 85 Subspecialties | 880,000 Diplomates

[Logos of various member boards]
What is ABMS Board Certification?

880,000+
practicing physicians are certified by one (or more) of the 24 ABMS Member Boards

Approximately
550,000
diplomates are currently participating in Maintenance of Certification
Requirements for Initial Board Certification

- Meet requirements for licensure
- Complete ACGME-accredited training program
- Pass specialty-specific knowledge and skills assessment
- Other requirements specific to discipline (e.g., oral exam, chart reviews)
ABMS Continuing Certification: One – Four – Six

One Continuing Certification Program *(must have achieved initial Board Certification)*

Four Elements within One Program

1. Professionalism and Professional Standing
2. Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
3. Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement and Skills
4. Improvement in Medical Practice

ABMS/ACGME Six Core Competencies

1. Medical Knowledge
2. Practice-based Learning and Improvement
3. Patient Care and Procedural Skills
4. Systems-based Practice
5. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
6. Professionalism
Goal: A Simpler Model, Integrated into Practice
What We Have Heard – Feedback from Physicians

• Make the process easier to navigate
• Reduce burden, time, and cost
• Increase relevance to practice
• Make the exam more supportive, allow outside resources
• Increase evidence of effectiveness
• Solicit input from practicing physicians
What We Have Heard – Feedback from External Stakeholders

- External assessment is expected, including assessment of knowledge and clinical performance
- Boards should expect “meaningful participation” in improvement
- Board requirements have an impact
- Widespread concern about physician burden and readiness
- Board requirements should be evidence-based
ABMS Member Boards are Responding

Engaging Physicians
- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Committee appointments-5000+ physician volunteers
- Meetings with specialty and state medical societies

Reducing burden
- Remote delivery
- Smart online technology to deliver assessment
- More user-friendly websites

“Wide door” for CPD and improvement activities
- Broaden access to CME
- Expanded registry options
- Organizational improvement activities

Increasing Practice Relevance and Value
- Modular testing formats
- Focus on clinical decision making
- Feedback to support learning
New Ways to Assess Knowledge and Clinical Judgement

- Alternatives to 10-year high-stakes examinations
- Modular content more relevant to practice
- Web-based delivery
- Use-of-Knowledge resources
- More frequent, lower-stakes exams
- Longitudinal assessment alternatives
ABMS Member Boards Developing Alternative Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CertLink® Boards</th>
<th>Other Boards</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colon &amp; Rectal Surgery</td>
<td>Allergy &amp; Immunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermatology</td>
<td>Orthopaedic Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Genetics &amp; Genomics</td>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery</td>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Medicine &amp; Rehabilitation</td>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
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<td>Psychiatry &amp; Neurology</td>
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<td>Internal Medicine</td>
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<td>Radiology</td>
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<td>Neurological Surgery</td>
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<td>Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</td>
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<td>Thoracic Surgery</td>
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<td>Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Urology</td>
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These Boards have announced longitudinal assessment programs for MOC Part III

Other Boards have/are developing alternative assessments for MOC Part II and/or III
## Certlink Diplomate Feedback – Initial Survey Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Agree or Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CertLink is an adequate assessment of the fundamental knowledge used in everyday practice.</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CertLink model <strong>integrates into daily life better</strong> than the current, secure MOC Part III exam for maintaining certification.</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would prefer taking a certain number of CertLink questions each year compared with taking a secure MOC Part III exam administered in a test center once every 10 years.</td>
<td>94.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in CertLink is a <strong>feasible</strong> method to keep up-to-date with developments.</td>
<td>99.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If fully implemented, I expect CertLink will offer <strong>sufficient flexibility to incorporate work and life events</strong>.</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflecting on the pilot so far, I am <strong>less anxious</strong> about taking a longitudinal assessment using the online CertLink system compared to taking a proctored exam at a secure testing center.</td>
<td>91.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflecting on the pilot so far, my level of stress about maintaining certification through CertLink has decreased.</td>
<td>89.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>I’m finding CertLink to be a <strong>valuable learning experience</strong>.</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer to take a continuous assessment like CertLink over the current, secure MOC Part III exam.</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>I am <strong>likely to recommend</strong> CertLink to a friend or colleague.</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am, overall satisfied with CertLink as a replacement for the current, secure MOC Part III exam.</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifelong learning is a professional responsibility of all physicians</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am <strong>encouraged</strong> that the Board is pursing a longitudinal assessment program, like CertLink, as a replacement for the proctored exam at a secure testing center.</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer to take a longitudinal assessment program, like CertLink, over the current, every 10-year exam.</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
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Innovations in Learning and Improvement

• Lifelong Learning
  • Access a wider variety of practice-relevant CME
  • ACCME collaboration
  • ABMS Continuing Certification Directory
  • Opioid item writing initiative

• Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP)
  • Expansion of recognized activities (“wide door” approach)
    • IMP Template
  • Alignment with local quality improvement activities
  • Society registries
  • ABMS Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program™
Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future

For more information visit: **www.visioninitiative.org**
Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future

- Independent of ABMS
- Broad charge to review all aspects of continuing certification – assumptions, purpose, implementation
- Collected input from wide base of stakeholders (diplomates, hospitals, specialty and medical societies, consumers, ACGME, et al.)
- Draft report expected December 2018
- Final report due Q1 2019
- Details and report available at www.visioninitiative.org
Questions and Comments
Thank you

For more information visit www.abms.org