

What Assessment Strategies Should Be Used in Determining Physician Competence? Panel Summary Report

Panelists:

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The panel led a discussion about potential assessment strategies to be used within the ABP maintenance of certification (MOC) process, beginning with the need to define the purpose of and goals for MOC, as those will drive assessment. The most appropriate assessment tools are those that can measure the intended goals, because one size does not fit all when it comes to assessment strategies. There also needs to be a change in physicians' perspective of MOC so that data is seen as an invaluable tool for improvement.

Of utmost importance is the value of MOC not only for physicians, but also for patients, parents, and other stakeholders. What role does MOC play in public protection? Can the ABP improve MOC so that it's less of a burden on physicians but still provides public assurance? Changes to the MOC program are not about whom the ABP can make happy, but how the ABP can improve the value of their certificates. That's how the ABP stays relevant. The new MOC program has to take into account the value of certification to all stakeholder groups. Conference participants discussed why the ABP should make changes to the MOC process. Some of the reasons noted were to:

- Make healthcare better for children by driving continuous improvement for physicians
- Engage physicians in continuous learning and improvement; nothing can be accomplished if diplomates aren't engaged
- Achieve a clear purpose of the Part 3 secure exam
- Address physician dissatisfaction with the current MOC process; the ABP needs to be relevant and current in how they assess physicians
- Demonstrate to the public that physicians who are Board certified meet standards of excellence

A participant asked the panel what the next steps are for creating a better MOC process. A discussion among the attendees resulted in the identification of two next steps along with suggestions to consider:

1. Define the purpose of a program of assessment for MOC in pediatrics:
 - Growth of new knowledge
 - Identify gaps in knowledge
 - Meaningful learning & physician improvement
 - Continue to assess competency and push education
 - Credibility of certificate

2. Outline what a program of good assessment looks like:
 - Identifies areas in which the physician needs to improve, as well as strengths
 - Provides tools to help the physician improve
 - Gives lots of feedback
 - Provides multiple data points
 - Promotes learning that can be translated into clinical practice
 - Integrates seamlessly into learning