



Frequently Asked Questions about Changes to the MOC Exam (Part 3)

Is the MOC exam going away?

No, the ABR is not eliminating its MOC exam, but we are in the initial stage of a pilot of a new evaluation process.

How is the MOC Part 3 exam changing?

The ABR plans to replace the current MOC 10-year requirement for a traditional proctored examination, offered at exam centers, with a continuous assessment that will bring the process to diplomates online. The ABR Board made this decision very recently, so many details are yet to be determined.

Is this similar to the American Board of Anesthesia's (ABA's) MOCA Minute™?

Yes. This new process, which has been well-vetted by the American Board of Anesthesiology with overwhelming diplomate satisfaction, will be a similar ongoing online assessment of learning. However, the two programs are not anticipated to be identical.

Do I still need to take an exam if I'm required to pass an MOC examination by March 2, 2017?

Yes, you are still required to take and pass the exam in 2016 to meet the Part 3 requirement. You may confirm your need to take an examination by consulting the Part 3 tab in myABR.

I just checked myABR, and it shows something different from what you're telling me. Why?

Updates to myABR will be implemented in the coming weeks to reflect this new change.

What if I don't need to take an MOC exam until 2017 or later?

You will be deferred from completing the Part 3 requirement until the new MOC Part 3 process is available in your discipline. So, you will not need to take an examination.

What if I've already registered for a 2016 MOC exam but no longer need to take it?

You can email moc@theabr.org or call (520) 519-2152 and ask to cancel your exam.

I have a subspecialty certificate in Hospice and Palliative Medicine or Pain Medicine. Am I also deferred from taking the exam?

No, you should continue to maintain your certificate through the American Board of Internal Medicine for Hospice and Palliative Medicine and the American Board of Anesthesiology for Pain Medicine. You will continue to register for your exam through the ABR.

How do I continue to maintain my certification?

You need to continue meeting requirements for Parts 1, 2, and 4 of MOC and make your yearly attestations in myABR between January 1 and March 1.

Will I still have to travel to an exam center, like Pearson VUE, to take the online assessment?

No, you will answer questions online at a location convenient to you. This will require no time away from work or travel expenses.

Will I still get to choose the clinical practice areas included in my exam?

Yes, you will still choose subspecialty areas that most closely fit your practice.

How will the online assessment work?

You will receive weekly emails with links to questions relevant to your registered practice profile. For convenience, questions may be answered singly or, for a reasonable time, in small batches. After opening a web-based question, you will be allowed a limited amount of time, appropriate to the question, to answer.

How will I know if my answer is correct?

You will learn immediately whether you answered correctly, and you will be given the question's rationale, a critique of the answers, and brief educational material.

What if my answer is incorrect?

You will receive future questions on the same topic to gauge whether you have learned the material and remediated knowledge gaps.

How will I know if I have satisfied requirements for MOC Part 3?

It will take considerable time for the ABR to fully develop, test, and implement this extensive change in MOC Part 3. Therefore, exact rules and details, including final format, scoring, and reporting, are yet to be finalized.

When will the new online assessment start?

We anticipate a pilot, lasting approximately six months or more, to be launched in the latter part of 2018. After the pilot has been completed and any necessary modifications have been made, availability to ABR diplomates may begin as early as mid-2019. This will be phased in for the various ABR disciplines as quickly as possible.

I recently took and passed a MOC exam. Will I be required to participate in the new online assessment process?

The rules regarding participation have not yet been finalized. By way of precedent, the American Board of Anesthesiology launched its similar program in January 2016 and is requiring all diplomates, regardless of prior examination status, to participate. Their diplomates are finding this a valuable educational tool.

How will this affect initial certification?

This change will not affect the ABR's initial certification examinations for diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, medical physics, or any subspecialties.