



Contact: Donna Breckenridge  
(520) 790-2900, [dbreckenridge@theabr.org](mailto:dbreckenridge@theabr.org)

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL:  
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### **American Board of Radiology Announces Maintenance of Certification Part 3: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment and Skills Pilot**

As part of the ongoing review of its Maintenance of Certification Program, the American Board of Radiology (ABR) has committed to evaluating a revision to MOC Part 3: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment and Skills. The ABR's Board members and staff have listened to the concerns of diplomates regarding the MOC program and have responded by evaluating a new direction that is consistent with the goal of providing a meaningful credential that is backed by evidence-based processes and, at the same time, increasing its relevance to the practices of ABR diplomates.

The ABR is developing a pilot that may potentially replace the current 10-year requirement for a traditional proctored examination, offered at exam centers, with a continuous assessment that leverages advances in technology to bring the process to the diplomates online. The online longitudinal assessment model that will be piloted incorporates modern and more relevant adult learning concepts to provide psychometrically valid sampling of diplomate knowledge. At the same time, the ABR will offer real-time feedback for diplomates to remediate any gaps in knowledge as they are uncovered. This pilot is designed to accomplish the two major goals of MOC Part 3 as it relates to Continuing Certification: (1) providing assurance of diplomate competence for patients and the public, and (2) support of continuous professional development through lifelong learning.

This new process has been piloted and evaluated by the American Board of Anesthesiology with overwhelming diplomate satisfaction. This change will not affect the ABR's initial certification examinations for diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, medical physics, interventional radiology, or any subspecialties.

#### **OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS**

In the online assessment platform the ABR is designing, diplomates will create a practice profile of the subspecialty areas that most closely fit what they do in practice, as they do now for the ABR's modular MOC examinations. They will receive weekly emails with links to questions relevant to their registered practice profile. For convenience, questions may be answered singly or, for a reasonable time, in small batches. After opening a web-based question, the diplomate will be allowed a limited amount of time, appropriate to the question, to answer.

Diplomates will learn immediately whether they answered correctly or not and will be presented with the question's rationale, a critique of the answers, and brief educational material. This feedback will assist them by guiding their CME (MOC Part 2) plan for lifelong learning, an essential component of professional development. Those who answer questions incorrectly will receive future questions on the same topic to gauge whether they have learned the material.

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Online longitudinal assessment is designed to have minimal impact on a diplomate's workday and requires no time away from work or travel expense. The goal of this evidence-based education model is to ensure both an assessment of knowledge as well as a personal learning benefit from participation. The potential for retesting areas of weakness provides a further opportunity for diplomates' self-assessment of their professional growth.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

It will take considerable time for the ABR to fully develop, test, and implement this pilot and potential change in MOC Part 3. Thus, precise implementation rules and details including ultimate format, scoring, and reporting are yet to be finalized. The ABR anticipates a pilot of online longitudinal assessment, 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. As with all of the ABR's MOC improvements, the finalized Part 3 assessment process will be phased in for diplomates in the various ABR disciplines as quickly as possible and as appropriate to the discipline.

Individual diplomates participating in MOC can determine their need to take the current MOC exam by logging in to myABR:

- ***Those who need to PASS AN MOC EXAMINATION by MARCH 2, 2017 (as indicated on the Part 3 tab in myABR) are still required to take and pass the exam in 2016 to meet the Part 3 requirement.***
- ***All other diplomates in all of ABR's disciplines will be deferred from completing the Part 3 exam requirement until the new MOC Part 3 process is available in their discipline. (This does not include Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Pain Medicine subspecialties.)***
- ***Changes to myABR will be implemented in the coming weeks to reflect this update.***
- ***To ensure their certificates remain valid, diplomates must continue meeting requirements for Parts 1, 2, and 4 of MOC and make their yearly attestations in myABR.***

The design of this pilot is a work in progress, and some details, including the launch timeline, may well change over the next year. The ABR will post information, including FAQs, on the ABR website and will periodically report progress regarding this change through its existing communications. Any major developments will be announced as needed through direct diplomate notifications.

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*Established in 1934, the mission of the American Board of Radiology (ABR) is to certify that our diplomates demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skill, and understanding of their disciplines to the benefit of patients. The ABR is one of 24 Member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.*