



October 31, 2017

American Board of Medical Specialties
John C. Moorhead, MD, MS, FACEP
Chair, ABMS Board of Directors
353 North Clark Street
Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60654

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Steve Van Hout
Executive Director

Dear Dr. Moorhead:

On behalf of the board of directors of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), the leading professional society representing more than 6,000 physicians who are board-certified in sleep medicine, I am writing to request that the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) make changes to the Program for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) to emphasize lifelong learning and eliminate continuous examination.

We agree with the ABMS that ongoing professional development is important to ensure that physicians maintain the highest standards of patient care. However, we consider the current MOC program - in particular Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills - to be an unnecessary burden for physicians, who are already overwhelmed by mounting administrative responsibilities that limit the time they can spend with their patients. A recent American Medical Association (AMA) [survey of physician satisfaction](#) found that the top three challenges identified by physicians are administrative burden, stress and lack of time. Feedback from our members suggests that the MOC program is a contributor to each of these sources of professional frustration.

We commend the ABMS for its openness to input from physicians and other stakeholders, as evidenced by the launch of the "[Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future](#)" commission in September 2017. During this collaborative process, we urge ABMS to reduce the burden of MOC requirements on physicians. We believe that ABMS can significantly improve the MOC program by eliminating standard KJS-1, which requires ongoing examination of diplomates' knowledge, and by reinforcing lifelong learning. Therefore, the AASM supports the recent [resolution passed by the AMA House of Delegates](#) to emphasize that lifelong learning is "best achieved by ongoing participation in a program of high quality continuing medical education (CME) appropriate to that physician's medical practice as determined by the relevant specialty society."

To discuss this issue in more detail, please contact AASM Executive Director Steve Van Hout at (630) 737-9700.

I thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Ilene M. Rosen, MD, MS
President

cc: Steve Van Hout, AASM Executive Director