

Maintenance of Certification Process

General Message

The Maintenance of Certification Process (MOC) is already a complicated, time-consuming, costly and often intrusive process. Unfortunately, there are certain national organizations seeking to expand requirements for recertification despite the fact that there is no data to demonstrate that physicians who undergo the MOC process are more skillful at providing patient care. KMA seeks a legislative remedy to ensure that physicians' time is focused on patient care, not on bureaucratic red tape.

Message #1 (The ISSUE) – National organizations are encouraging the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure to require even more strenuous and unnecessary certification processes for Kentucky physicians despite a lack of any evidence that it is needed to improve patient care.

Supporting Points:

- National specialty certification organizations are non-profit entities that funded by recertification exams given to physicians to remain board certified in practice areas. Initially, this certification included one exam for physicians after they complete their residency programs, but over time these requirements to maintain certification have expanded.
- These entities have advised the Federation of State Medical Boards, of which the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure is a member, to include the MOC or similar processes in the state licensure procedure.
- In the U.S., 25% of all practicing physicians have never been board certified and 50% of all board-certified physicians have not previously been required to participate in MOC.
- These organizations face a conflict of interest in recommending requirements for a MOC process as they administer the exams, and reap the benefit of the fees associated.
- Currently, no impact study has been conducted that addresses the impact of a MOC process on workforce, costs, access to care, and quality improvement in patient care.

Message #2 (The PROBLEM) – Kentucky already faces a shortage of physicians. Adding unnecessary licensure requirements which have not been scientifically proven to increase care to patients would only further exacerbate a growing problem in the Commonwealth.

Supporting Points:

- Recertification requirements added to the state's licensure process would add additional costs burdens on physicians who are already entering the marketplace with hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt.
- Physicians are forced to spend resources and time away from patients to address this cumbersome and unnecessary recertification process.
- Physicians, who still must meet other state-mandated continuing education requirements outside the recertification process, under a required MOC process would be required to take a high-stakes, standardized written exam, for which national specialty certification organizations remain unable or unwilling to scientifically validate the need.

Message #3 (The SOLUTION) – Legislation is needed to prohibit the state from mandating MOC or a similar process as a condition of licensure.

Supporting Points:

- The legislation creates a more inviting environment to attract physicians to the Commonwealth.
- Prevents wasted time and resources of physicians to address a test that in no way reflects how medicine is practiced in real-time.
- Ensures physician focus on patient care rather than a focus on maintaining certification.