



American Board
of Internal Medicine

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for Cardiologists

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Medicine**

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Mission Statement

“To enhance the quality of health care available to the American public by continuously improving the process and maintaining high standards for certifying individual internists and subspecialists who possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for the provision of excellent medical care.”

“Of the Profession...for the patient...”

American Board of Internal Medicine

Historical milestones

- **1936** - American Medical Association and American College of Physicians form the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)
- **1941** - American Heart Association and ABIM develop certification in cardiovascular disease: 223 individuals certify. **2009 - 25,817 certified**
- **1987–1988** Critical care and Geriatric Medicine certificates time-limited to 10 years
- **1990** - All ABIM certificates time-limited to 10 years (Grandfathers – pre-1990 certification)
- **2000-2009** -Recertification evolves to Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
- **2010** Move towards continuous MOC



American Board of Medical Specialties®

Higher standards. Better care.™

- Allergy & Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Colon/Rectal Surgery
- Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- **Internal Medicine**
- Medical Genetics
- Neurological Surgery
- Nuclear Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- **Pediatrics**
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry & Neurology
- Radiology
- Surgery
- Thoracic Surgery
- Urology



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1.800.441.ABIM | www.abim.org

Patients and Physicians Believe In the Importance of Ongoing Assessment

- The public expects, in return for the privilege of self-regulation, that physicians undergo a rigorous, periodic examination of knowledge. A recent ABMS consumer survey found 91 percent of respondents said that board certification is “very important” or “important” in choosing a doctor.
- *I believe I will serve my patients better.”*
 - Brennan, TA, *Recertification for Internists – One “Grandfather’s” Experience*, N Engl J Med. 353:1989-1991.
- *“Gaining a sense of success that is congruent with my core medical goals requires a different set of measures altogether.”*
 - Baron, RJ, *Personal Metrics for Practice – How’m I Doing?*, N Engl J Med 353:1991-1993.
- *“The recognition of quality outcomes has kept me in medicine. You need some sense that this is worth it. I’m getting the positive feedback. That’s where it’s at.”*
 - Dr. James Wilson, *Putting Quality Into Practice* (www.abimfoundation.org)

The Need for Physician Assessment and Evaluation

- **On average, clinical skills tend to decline over time.**
- **Amount of clinical experience does not necessarily lead to better outcomes or improvement of skills.**
 - Choudhry, N.K., R.H. Fletcher, and S.B. Soumerai, *Systematic Review: The Relationship between Clinical Experience and Quality of Health Care*. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2005. 142(4): p. 260-W-30.
- **Fewer than 30% of physicians examine their own performance data.**
 - Audet, A.-M.J., et al., *Measure, Learn, And Improve: Physicians' Involvement In Quality Improvement*. *Health Affairs*, 2005. 24(3): p. 843-853.
- **A physician's ability to independently and accurately self-assess and self-evaluate is poor.**
 - Davis, D.A., et al., *Accuracy of Physician Self-assessment Compared With Observed Measures of Competence*. *JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2006. 296(9): p. 1094-1102.

Board Certification Correlates With

Better outcomes & more reliable care	<i>JAMA, 2004, Vol. 292, pp.1038-43</i>
Time since physician's last board certification correlates with decline in quality of care for patients being treated for high blood pressure	<i>Cardiology, 2008; Vol. 117, pp.623-628</i>
15% lower mortality in myocardial infarction	<i>Acad. Med., 2000, Vol. 75, pp. 1193-98</i>
Higher rates of preventive service	<i>JAMA, 2005, Vol. 294, pp. 473-81</i>
40% lower mortality in colon resection	<i>Surgery, 2002, Vol. 132, pp. 663-70</i>
20% fewer low birth weight babies	<i>Am. J. of Pub. Health, 1995, Vol. 85, pp. 1087-91</i>

ABIM Certificates Related to Cardiology

- **Internal Medicine**
- **Cardiovascular Disease**
- **Interventional Cardiology**
- **Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology**
- **Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology (exam November 2010)**
- **Proposed: Adult Congenital Heart Disease**

ABIM Maintenance of Certification

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) guides the MOC process; ABMS' 24 Member Boards set the criteria and curriculum for each specialty. The four-part MOC process includes:

- **MOC Part I: Professional Standing** – Current, unrestricted medical license.
- **MOC Part II: Lifelong Learning and Periodic Self-Assessment** – Options include the ABIM's 60-multiple choice question self-assessment *Knowledge Modules* or the ACCF self assessment program, ACCSAP 6.
- **MOC Part III: Cognitive Expertise** – recertification examination every 10 years.
- **MOC Part IV: Practice Performance Assessment** Evaluation of practice improvement.

MOC Components – All subspecialties

- ✓ Verification of Credentials
 - Medical license
- ✓ Pass a secure examination
- ✓ Complete 100 points of self-evaluation in:
 - Medical Knowledge (minimum 20 points)
 - Practice Performance (minimum 20 points)(Remaining 60 points in any combination)

The Secure Examination

- Cognitive simulation of practice
- Predominantly assesses higher-order intellectual abilities rather than recall

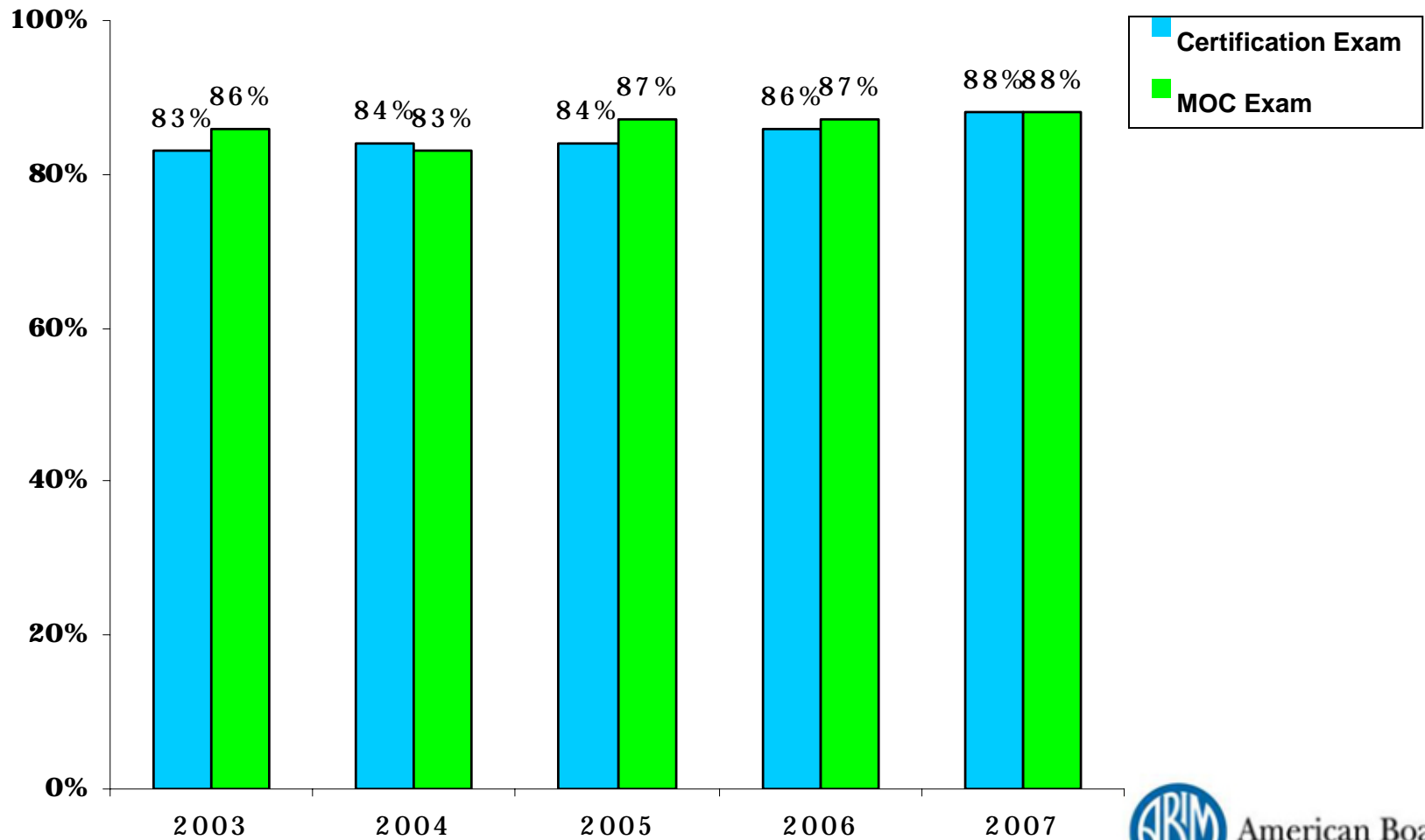
Diagnostic Acumen and Clinical Judgment: >85%

Recall Knowledge: <15%

- Includes conditions that **could** present to any practice, but doesn't require knowledge that skilled practitioners **should** "look up"

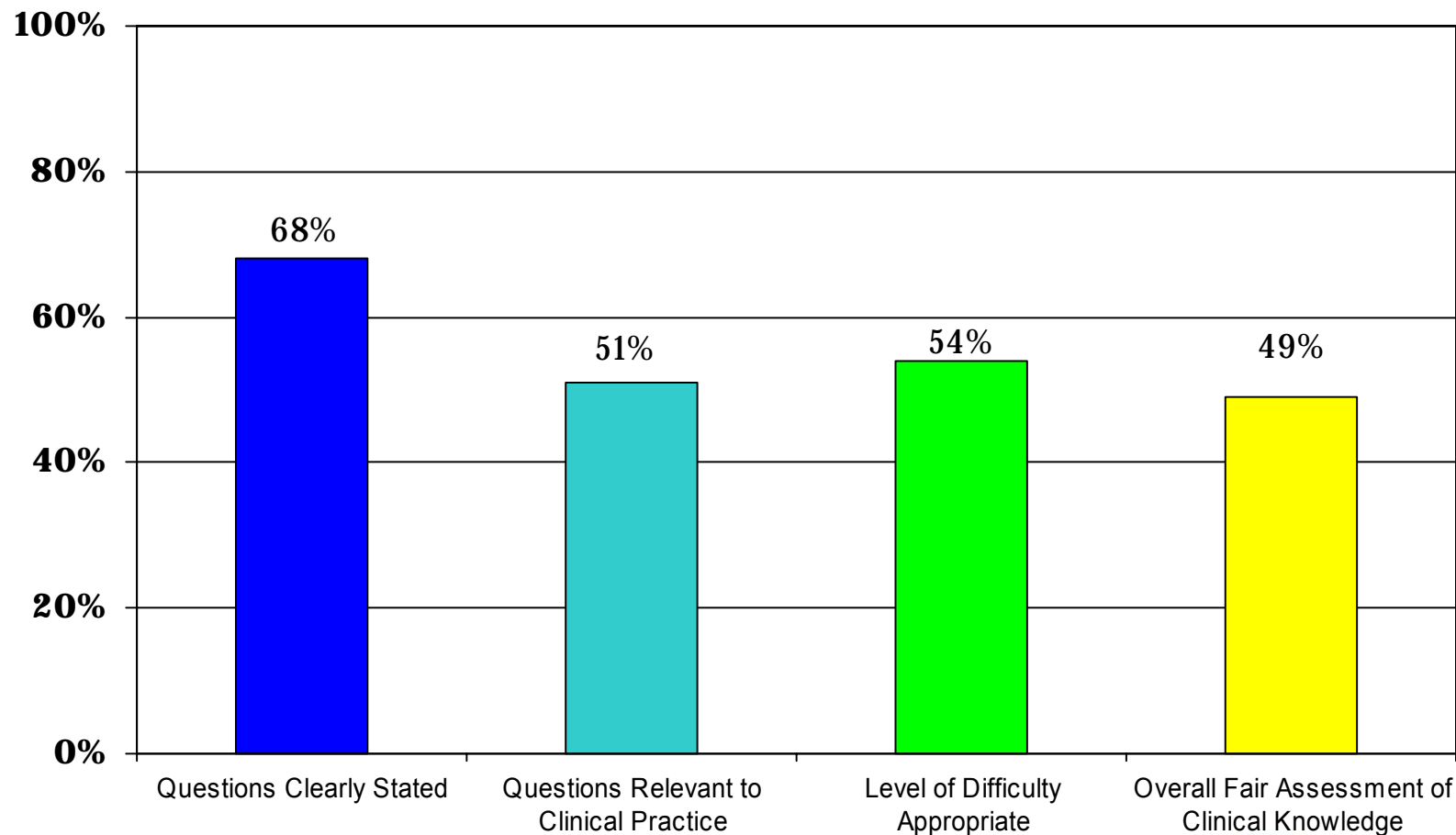
Exam Results

Cardiovascular Disease Examinations: 2003-2007 First-Time Taker Pass Rates



Diplomate Opinion – Cert and MOC Exam

Cardiologists – Strongly Agree/Agree



Evaluation of the Secure Examination and MOC program
May 2000 - Nov 2007 (Cumulative data)

Self-Evaluation of Medical Knowledge Part II

- **ABIM Annual Updates in Cardiovascular Disease**
- **ACC ACCSAP6**
- **ACC CathSAP3**
- **ACC.10 & i2 Summit 2010**
- **ABIM Interventional Cardiology Simulations (SimSuite Bus, Regional SimSuite Centers, Convention based learning)**
- **ACC Chapter Based Learning Sessions**

Performance Improvement – Part IV

- Practice Improvement Module (PIM)
 - Web-based practice self-evaluation
 - Practice improvement cycle
- Patient and Peer Surveys
- Other Quality Data
 - Participation in ongoing practice evaluation and improvement activity
 - Use data collected by others to analyze practice and improve it

Part IV Options for Cardiologists

- Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance
 - Hospital-Based Patient Care PIM (20 points)
 - Hypertension PIM (40 points)
 - Preventive Cardiology PIM (40 points)
 - Communication – Subspecialists PIM (20 points)
 - Communication with Referring Physicians PIM (20 points)
 - Self-Directed PIM (using approved sources such as ACC-NCDR Data Registry) (20 points)
 - ABIM-approved Continuous Quality Improvement (ACQIs), including ACC D2B, ACP Closing the Gap, AHA Get with the Guidelines and Improving Performance in Practice (IPIP) (20 points)



Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance

I know I have to do this, but I do not have data that I trust that tells me anything useful about my practice performance



**“Classic” PIMs
(Practice Improvement
Modules)**

I have valid performance data using evidence-based measures, but I need a tool to support my QI project (or would like to report a project that is already completed)



**Self-Directed PIM, or
Hospital PIM**

I’m involved in a quality improvement project that has been pre-approved by ABIM for practice performance credit



ACQI Program

I don’t practice clinical medicine.



**Essentials of QI Module
(for clinically inactive
physicians)**



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Where should I begin?

How do I “order” my PIM and begin working on it?

Example:

Ordering the Self-Directed PIM

From www.abim.org

Self-Directed PIM

- The SD PIM allows physicians or groups of physicians to use validated performance data to report on or begin a quality improvement activity
- Process:
 1. Collect data
 2. Make a plan for improvement
 3. Test the impact of your plan



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Name: Javier Aguilar Aragon, MD

Specialty: Internal Medicine

ABIM Certified.



The American Board of Internal Medicine sets the standards and certifies the knowledge, skills and attitudes of physicians who practice in Internal Medicine and its subspecialties. | More...

RESIDENCY TRAINING...

- Using PIMs in Residency & Fellowship Programs
Residency Program Statistics: Pass Rates & Trends
ABIM's Faculty Development Course
Take Advantage of ABIM Evaluation Tools
Helpful Resources
FasTrack Login & Information
Order and Administer PIMs for Residents and Fellows
Work on PIMs for Residents and Fellows

NON-INTERNISTS...

- Learn About Practice Improvement Modules

HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS...

- Health Plans
Hospitals, Health Systems & Medical Groups
Policymakers
Societies

PATIENTS/CONSUMERS...

- Verify Your Doctor's Certification
How Certification Impacts Patients
How Maintenance of Certification Impacts Patients

ABMS BOARDS...

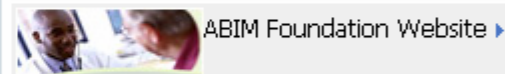
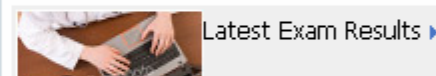
- Learn About PIMs

Get Information by Specialty:

Links to details about each specialty

Select... Go ▶

QUICK LINKS



NEWS

- Attorney General Warns of Bogus Medical Board Certification Scam Targeting Immigrant Doctors
A New PIM for Physicians Supervising Trainees
Warning regarding scam "Certification Boards"
More News...

Verify a Physician's Certification:

by... Name Candidate # NPI #
First (if known):
Middle (if known):
Last (required):
Dob (if known): mm/dd/yy format
Match Exactly Show All
Is Similar Show 20 Go ▶



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Physician Login

Forgot Password?

Find Your Candidate Number

Physician Login Help



Physician Login

6 digit candidate number

[Find your candidate number](#)

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

Login

This secure section of the ABIM website allows candidates and diplomates to interact with ABIM. Here you can update your mailing address, e-mail address, and other contact information; view examination and certification history; register for examinations; and enroll and participate in the Maintenance of Certification program.

Access to Physician Login and My Home Page sections of this website is granted to diplomates and candidates of ABIM in order for them to communicate and request information from ABIM. All other use is prohibited.


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My Home Page (Joe Demo)

Welcome to your home page on the ABIM website. This secure section of the website is accessible only by logging in using your candidate number and password. Through this page you can register for exams, find quick links to important information and keep your contact information up-to-date.

My Information

Your ABIM Candidate number is: DEMO01

- ◆ [Update contact information](#) (mailing address, phone number, e-mail address)
- ◆ [Update NPI \(National Provider Identifier\)](#)
- ◆ [Update Practice Characteristics Profile](#)
- ◆ [Change password](#)
- ◆ [Alter Demo](#)

My Resources

- ◆ [Details & Policies for Maintenance of Certification](#)
- ◆ [Self-Evaluation Overview](#)
- ◆ [View Report of CME earned](#)
- ◆ [Contact ABIM](#)

My Examinations

- ◆ [View registration status, exam results and certification history](#)
- ◆ [Register for Examination](#)

My Maintenance of Certification Program

You are currently enrolled in the Maintenance of Certification program.

- ◆ [View status in the Maintenance of Certification program](#)
- ◆ [Optional Reporting to Third Parties](#)
- ◆ [Order Medical Knowledge module](#)
- ◆ [Order Practice Improvement module \(PIM\)](#)
- ◆ [Report Continuous Quality Improvement activity for practice performance credit](#)

Interventional Cardiology Simulations 98A

[Schedule/Reschedule/Cancel appointment](#)



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Related Information...

- Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance
- Order a module to be completed as a Group
- Report Established Quality Improvement activity for practice performance credit
- Sample Practice Improvement Modules

Order Practice Improvement Module

Your responses to the Maintenance of Certification Practice Characteristics Profile indicate that you are clinically active and have access to patient data, meaning that you may order a Practice Improvement Module (PIM) or a Patient and Peer Survey module from the range of choices in the menu below. *If your status has changed and you are now clinically inactive, please return to the Maintenance of Certification Practice Characteristics Profile to update your information.*

Select module

Cancel

>>Continue>>



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- Select module ▼
- Communication - Subspecialists ▲
- Communication with Referring Physicians
- Diabetes
- HIV
- Hepatitis C
- Hospital-Based Patient Care
- Hypertension
- Osteoporosis
- Patient and Physician Peer Assessment
- Preventive Cardiology
- Self-Directed ▼



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Related Information...

- ▶ Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance
- ▶ Order a module to be completed as a Group
- ▶ Report Established Quality Improvement activity for practice performance credit
- ▶ Sample Practice Improvement Modules

Order Practice Improvement Module

Request for Self-Directed Practice Performance module

This module counts as 20 points and includes

- Review of performance data
- Examination of systems
- Development of a quality improvement plan
- Measurement of impact of the quality improvement plan

This module is only available over the internet

System requirements for Internet

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher for the PC

or

Firefox 1.0.6 or higher for PC, MAC or other operating systems

Super VGA display, 200-MHz Pentium or faster

Modules taken over the internet will be added to your home page.

<<Back<<

Place Order

Cancel



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Related Information...

- ▶ Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance
- ▶ Order a module to be completed as a Group
- ▶ Report Established Quality Improvement activity for practice performance credit
- ▶ Sample Practice Improvement Modules

Order Practice Improvement Module

Self-Directed module has been ordered. This module will now be accessible to you from your Home Page.

OK

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My Home Page (Joe Demo)

Welcome to your home page on the ABIM website. This secure section of the website is accessible only by logging in using your candidate number and password. Through this page you can register for exams, find quick links to important information and keep your contact information up-to-date.

My Information

Your ABIM Candidate number is: DEMO01

- ◆ [Update contact information](#) (mailing address, phone number, e-mail address)
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- ◆ [Alter Demo](#)

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- ◆ [Order Practice Improvement module \(PIM\)](#)
- ◆ [Report Continuous Quality Improvement activity for practice performance credit](#)

Interventional Cardiology Simulations 98A

[Schedule/Reschedule/Cancel appointment](#)

Self-Directed 76A

[Work on module](#) [Cancel Module](#)

Practice Improvement Module...
Self-Directed



Main Menu for Joe Demo

PART 1 - Performance Data	My Data	Recommended Number to Complete	Deadline to complete section
Requirements	1	1	06/26/2009
Enter Performance Data	1	5	06/26/2009
Examine Systems	0	1	06/26/2009
Request Report			
PART 2 - Improvement Plan			
Develop Improvement Plan			
Report Results			

Submit Completed Module Tutorial Exit

Access to this portion of the web site is restricted. Only those who have been issued a password from ABIM are permitted for the purposes of communicating with and requesting information from the Board. All other use is prohibited.

“Classic” PIMs

I know I have to do this, but I do not have data that I trust that tells me anything useful about my practice performance



“Classic” PIMs

Example:

- Hypertension (40 points)

Practice Improvement Module...
Hypertension



Main Menu for

DEMONSTRATION MODULE

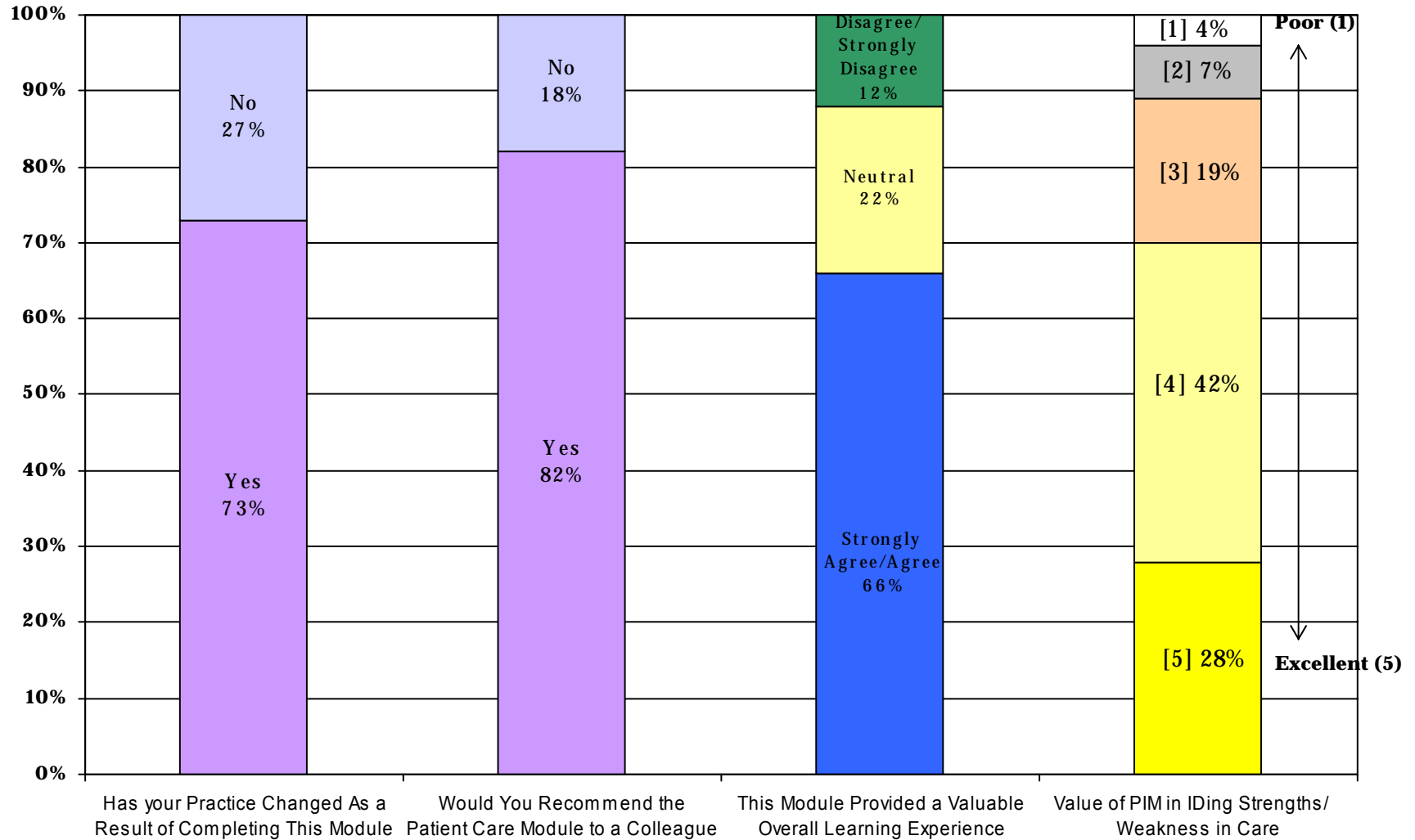
PART 1 - Performance Data	My Data	Recommended Number to Complete	Deadline to complete section
Requirements	1	1	
Surveys	73	25	
Review Charts	25	25	
Examine Systems	1	1	
PART 2 - Improvement Plan			
Develop Improvement Plan			
Report Results			10/17/2008

Submit Completed Module Tutorial Exit

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Diplomate Opinion – PIMs

All Diplomates



POST PIM Survey – ALL DIPLOMATES

N= Approximately 4990-5003

January – December 2008

Self-Evaluation of Practice Performance

I'm involved in a quality improvement project that has been pre-approved by ABIM for practice performance Credit.



**ACQI Program
(option other than a
PIM)**

Example:

- ACC Door-to-Balloon (D2B) Time Initiative
(20 points)

ACQI: Door-to-Balloon (D2B)

- 1,100 hospitals participating in D2B
- Serve as a leader or member of a team that worked on D2B in your institution
- Submit attestation of your D2B participation in an ACQI (20 points each)
- 260 interventional cardiology diplomates have completed this option.

Report ABIM Approved Continuous Quality Improvement Program

This module is restricted for use **ONLY** by physicians enrolled in the following continuous quality improvement (CQI) programs of their respective organizations. If you are unsure you qualify for this module, please contact the organization managing the CQI program. Otherwise, please indicate the program you participated in below and click "Continue" to fill out the attestation form required to receive ABIM credit.

ABIM Approved CQI Programs:

- American College of Cardiology (ACC) D2B: Door-to-Balloon Time Initiative
- American College of Physicians (ACP) ACPNet: COPD
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Closing the Gap - Cardiovascular Risk
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Closing the Gap - Diabetes Care
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Closing the Gap - Immunizations
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Geriatrics Initiative (PRIME project)
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Innovations in Practice Program
- ACR Practice Improvement Module AIM:RA
- ACR Practice Improvement Module AIM:Gout
- American Heart Association (AHA) Get With The Guidelines (GWTG)
- Health Partners Medical Group - Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Henry Ford Health System QI Initiative

ABIM Testing Logistics

- Subspecialty Test Administration
 - Pearson VUE Computer-based (200 centers)
 - Individual workstations
 - Enhanced graphics, multimedia capability

Recertification in Cardiovascular Disease Subspecialties

- In general, you do not need to maintain Certification in **Internal Medicine** to recertify in a subspecialty; however, a few exceptions apply:
 - To be eligible for renewal of a certificate in **Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology** or **Interventional Cardiology**, you must maintain a valid underlying certificate in cardiovascular disease.
 - You can apply the 100 points you have earned to both certificates you are renewing, provided that the 100 points are still valid at the time your second certificate expires. Once your points are completed, they are valid for 10 years.

Common Misconceptions About MOC

- “I have to complete my modules before I can register or take the exam.”
- “If I finish my MOC requirements early, it shortens my certificate.”
- “I have to complete 100 points for each area of recertification if I hold more than one certificate.”

Common Misconceptions About MOC

- “My Medical Knowledge modules are good as exam review material”
- “I am no longer clinically active, so I cannot recertify. I have no access to patients or patient charts and cannot complete the practice performance requirements.”
- “My exam counts towards the 100-point Self Evaluation requirement”

Common Misconceptions About MOC

- “If my certification lapses, my modules won’t count and I’ll have to start the process all over again!”
- “If I have accrued 100 Medical Knowledge points from external society-developed products like ACCSAP or MKSAP, I am not required to do a PIM.”

Value of ABIM Certification

- Although voluntary, more than 87% of U.S. doctors are certified.
- Recent Gallup survey demonstrates that patients value certification
- Other entities –health plans, hospitals, medical groups, licensing boards, other countries – are using certification and/or components.
- You are eligible to claim CME (*AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*) for completion of ABIM self-evaluation modules.

Reducing Redundancy

Recognition	Reward
<p data-bbox="350 301 773 419">Recognition in Provider Directory and/or Quality Networks:</p> <ul data-bbox="350 479 826 1001" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="350 479 472 508">▪ Aetna<li data-bbox="350 522 677 551">▪ BCBS Association<li data-bbox="350 565 687 594">▪ BCBS of Nebraska<li data-bbox="350 608 712 636">▪ BCBS of Tennessee<li data-bbox="350 651 683 679">▪ CIGNA Healthcare<li data-bbox="350 694 626 722">▪ Excellus BCBS<li data-bbox="350 736 706 765">▪ Health Alliance Plan<li data-bbox="350 779 597 808">▪ Humana, Inc.<li data-bbox="350 822 616 851">▪ Triple-S BCBS<li data-bbox="350 865 662 893">▪ UnitedHealthcare<li data-bbox="350 908 826 1001">▪ WellPoint, Inc. (includes 13 regional BCBS plans)	<p data-bbox="963 301 1528 379">Inclusion in P4P score or bonus payment:</p> <ul data-bbox="963 436 1420 822" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="963 436 1420 465">▪ Aetna Mid-Atlantic Region<li data-bbox="963 479 1315 508">▪ BCBS of Minnesota<li data-bbox="963 522 1306 551">▪ BCBS of Nebraska<li data-bbox="963 565 1258 594">▪ CareFirst BCBS<li data-bbox="963 608 1325 636">▪ Health Alliance Plan<li data-bbox="963 651 1296 679">▪ Highmark BS (PA)<li data-bbox="963 694 1325 722">▪ Horizon BCBS of NJ<li data-bbox="963 736 1229 765">▪ Triple-S BCBS<li data-bbox="963 779 1325 822">▪ WellPoint, Inc. (CO)

Interventional Cardiology Maintenance of Certification

- **Did you sit for the Interventional Cardiology certification exam in 1999?**
- **It's time to renew your certificate in Interventional Cardiology!**
- **Your current certificate is only valid through [December 2009.](#)**

ACC and MOC

- ACC MOC Products
 - ACCSAP 6 Practice Exam: 100 points
- MOC Promotion at ACC '09 Conference
 - MOC Tracks: Eight MOC Learning Sessions
 - MOC Video Loop on Conference Monitors
 - MOC Information Room
- ACC Cardiosource
 - <http://www.cardiosource.com>
 - Cardiosource MOC Toolkit is a complete online guide for helping members meet their MOC requirements

ABIM and ACC Collaboration

- ABIM–ACC Leadership Teams met on 2/10/08 at ABIM on collaborative initiatives for 2009 and beyond in the areas of self-evaluation products, tools and programs
- ABIM LCR Committee
- ACC Annual Meeting
- MOC Updates on Cardiosource
- MOC Learning Sessions – at both national and regional ACC conferences

ACC Collaboration with ABIM

- ACC is collaborating with ABIM on new MOC requirements emerging from ABMS.
- ACCF PIMs built in collaboration with ABIM to meet critical member needs.
- ABIM MOC Sessions at ACC.09 and ACC.10
- SimSuite Simulation Bus for Interventional Cardiology modules
- The ACCF Life-Long Learning Portfolio

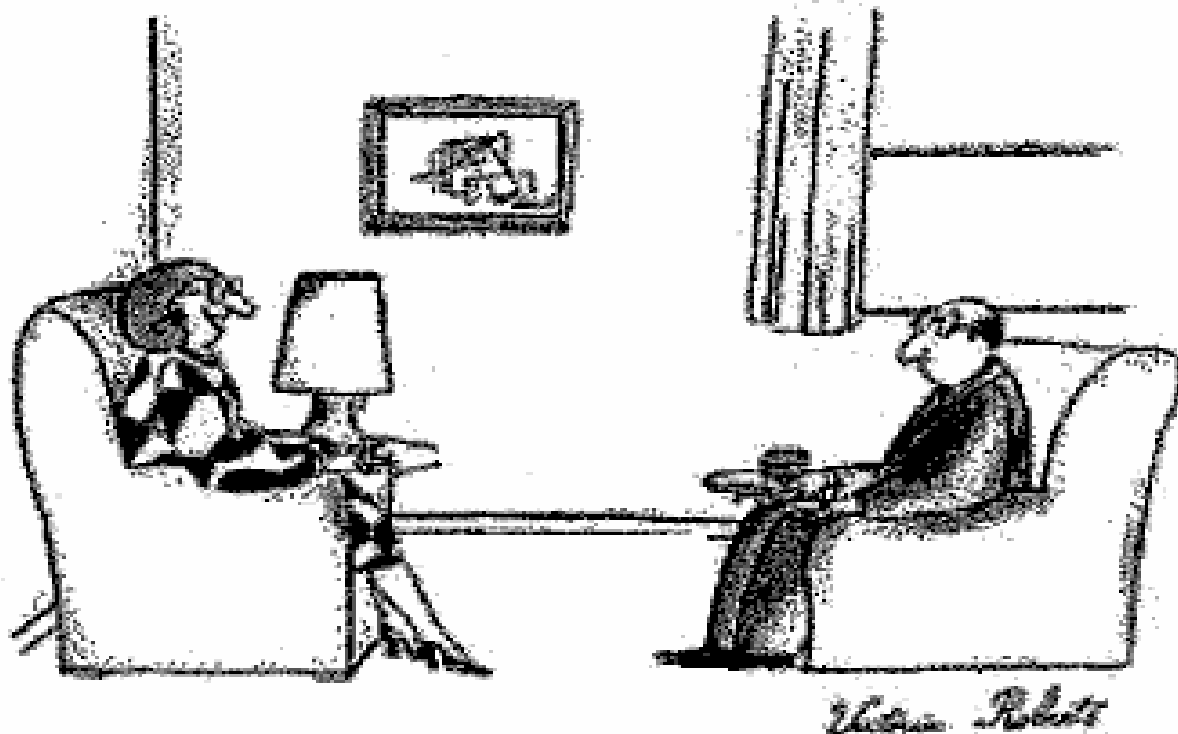


How Physicians View Certification and MOC

- **Satisfied with testing experience** (October – November 2007)
 - 83% Strongly agree or agree (n= 11,457)
- Self-Evaluation Process was **valuable learning experience** (June – March 2007)
 - 76% Strongly agree or agree (n=151,827)
- Performance Improvement Module (January 2008)
 - 73% **changed their practice** as a result of completing the module (n=199)
 - 75% **would recommend** the PIM to a colleague (n=185)

Questions on MOC?

- Go to www.abim.org “Maintain and Renew Your Certification” for general information.
- Go to “Get Information by Subspecialty. Go to the Physician Login to enroll, check your status, order modules and register to take the exam.
- Visit the ACC MOC Toolkit on Cardiosource, review the frequently asked questions and link to ABIM resources:
 - www.cardiosource.com/MOC



*"Don't worry, Howard. The big questions
are multiple choice."*