Background

- External pressures have lead to increasing demands for accountability on the part of physicians to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to self-improvement, learning, adoption of best practices and improved quality of care

- Initiatives to achieve these goals have been implemented by national accrediting organizations, state medical licensing boards, and the federal government

Four Parts to Original MOC Program

- Maintain valid, unrestricted professional standing
- Educational and self-assessment programs determined by specialty and subspecialty by requiring ongoing measurement of six core competencies adopted by ABMS and ACGME in 1999.
- Certification status is publicly reported (www.certificationmatters.org)
- Evaluation of clinical practice according to specialty-specific standards for patient care. Must demonstrate that you can assess the quality of care you provide compared to peers and national benchmarks and then apply the best evidence or consensus recommendations to improve that care using follow-up assessments
An Ever Changing MOC

- Beginning 2/3/15, ABIM suspended the Practice Assessment, Patient Voice and Patient Safety requirements for at least 2 years
- No internist will have his or her certification status changed for not having completed activities in these areas for at least 2 years
- Still in flux with ongoing debate

Changes to MOC

- Diplomates who are currently not certified but who have satisfied all requirements for MOC except for the practice assessment requirement will be issued a new certificate this year (still must complete 100 points and examination)

MOC Changes

- By end of 2015, ABIM will recognize most forms of ACCME-approved CME, allowing more flexibility to demonstrate medical knowledge self-assessment
- MOC fees frozen until 2017

More Recent MOC Changes

- ABIM announced an enhanced score report beginning with the spring 2015 examination with more information about individual examinee performance.
- Included in the new report is a visual presentation of results, more feedback about missed questions, and links to supplemental information.
- ABIM also released an updated Internal Medicine MOC examination blueprint to be implemented with the fall 2015 examination. The updated blueprint adjusted the distribution of medical content areas on the exam with content addressing high-importance, medium-importance, and no questions addressing content rated low-importance.
ASN and MOC

- ASN continues to support you, and each of our members, in meeting our shared professional obligation to maintain lifelong learning and professionalism.
- Addressing the society’s mission “to lead the fight against kidney disease by educating health professionals, sharing new knowledge, advancing research, and advocating the highest quality care for patients”

From Recent ASN Posting:

- “ASN is listening carefully to the deeply felt concerns many of our members have expressed about ABIM and the MOC process. In support of our members, we will continue to work with ABIM, advocating strongly for reform of the MOC process. At the same time, we recognize that members may choose not to continue participating in the ABIM MOC process in the future, and that viable alternatives to MOC that are sponsored by other organizations may develop. Therefore, while still working with ABIM to make the MOC process less onerous and more relevant to our members, ASN will also take steps to keep our members apprised of these alternative approaches to MOC.”

Alternatives to ABIM

- National Board of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Led by Dr. Paul Teirstein and provides an alternative to traditional time-limited certification provided by ABIM
- Not necessarily recognized by credentialing or licensing bodies at this time

Nuts and bolts...

- Enrollment on ABIM website
- Enrollment fees:
  - One secure examination for each specialty you choose to maintain
  - Access to all ABIM self-evaluation products
  - Any CME credit you can claim through completion of an ABIM module
  - Certificate and 50% on the lower cost certificate(s).
  - Diplomates currently certified by another member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) are eligible for a 30% discount of the MOC enrollment fee.
**Nuts and Bolts...**

- Some MOC activity every two years
- 100 points every five years
- Points earned every two years will also count toward your five-year requirement, and also count toward the milestones for the certifications you are maintaining.
- Points earned count toward all certifications being maintained.

**Examination**

- Pass the MOC exam in your specialty(ies) every 10 years (first exam attempt in each certification area you maintain earns 20 MOC points).
- ABIM will honor the previous exam program rules for certificates that expire between now and December 31, 2023.
- Future exams for certificates that are contingent upon “Meeting MOC Requirements” will be due 10 years from when they were last passed.

**Timing**

- Currently 97% of ABIM Diplomates wait until year 9 to complete activities
- Give yourself ample time to complete the program by enrolling no later than the fourth year after certification. You must be enrolled in the program to schedule an exam.
- You may schedule your exam appointment and take the exam any time beginning in year six of your certification.
- Important: Completion of the practice improvement module (PIM) will take two to six months.

**Exam Blueprint**

- All questions pre-tested on prior certification exam
- Statistical performance (difficulty, discriminant power) reviewed for each question from previous exam
- Approximately 20% of best-performing questions reused (anchor items)
- Single best answer questions only
- At least 75% of exam are based upon patient presentations occurring in typical medical settings
Blueprint for Nephrology Certifying Exam

- Medical Content Category % of Exam
  - Sodium / Water 8%
  - Acid-Base / Potassium 10%
  - Calcium, Phosphorus, Magnesium, Stones 4%
  - Chronic Kidney Disease (No transplant) 20%
  - Hypertension 10%
  - Tubular, Interstitial and Cystic Disorders 4%
  - Glomerular / Vascular Disorders 12%
  - Kidney Transplantation 10%
  - Pharmacology 8%
  - Acute Kidney Injury / ICU Nephrology 14%
  - Total 100%


Success Rates for First-Time Test Takers

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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Success Rates for MOC Participants

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Pass Rates</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>84%</td>
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</table>

Summary

- Currently, MOC is a requirement
- Stay abreast of the current changes
- Without a doubt, some demonstration of an ongoing commitment to knowledge maintenance and enhancement supplemented by practice improvement will be required.
- ASN serves as a strong advocate for your practice
- There will be an information session at Kidney Week to further update you.