

May 30, 2024

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SENT VIA EMAIL: RBattaglia@ABIM.ORG

Dr. Battaglia:

On behalf of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), I thank you for inviting feedback about the Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment (LKA) and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) points. The AASM represents about 6,000 physicians who have active subspecialty certification in sleep medicine, including more than 3,500 physicians who are certified through the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

I am encouraged to hear from you that the ABIM Council is considering the possibility of eliminating the requirement to accrue 100 MOC points every five years for those engaged in the LKA. As you noted, continuous learning is an inherent part of the LKA model, which makes the MOC points requirement redundant for those diplomates who are participating in the LKA.

The AASM has been gathering feedback from members about current MOC requirements, and their response has been clear: Our members feel strongly that MOC program requirements are redundant with continuing medical education (CME) requirements for state licensure; MOC program requirements contribute to feelings of burnout; and the annual MOC fees are too high. The removal of the MOC points requirement for LKA participants would address these pain points by reducing redundancy, making the program less burdensome, and eliminating the costs associated with obtaining MOC points. **Therefore, the AASM strongly supports the ABIM Council's proposal to eliminate the requirement to accrue 100 MOC points every five years for those engaged in the LKA.**

I thank you for seeking feedback from the AASM and other stakeholders, and I look forward to the opportunity to provide additional input to the ABIM in the future.

Sincerely,



James A. Rowley, MD, FAASM
President

CC: Steve Van Hout, AASM Executive Director
Helene Brooks, ABIM Director of Strategic Alliances - HBrooks@ABIM.ORG