The Present MOC System Is Flawed And Does Not Help Patients: MOC Should Be Abolished And Replaced By A Lifelong Learning System: How To Do It

GILBERT R. UPCHURCH, JR., M.D.
CHAIR, VASCULAR SURGERY BOARD

Disclosures

● Nothing to Disclose

New Assessment Process

● Continuous Certification Program and assessment process introduced in 2019 for vascular surgery

● The new process has replaced traditional 10-year recertification exam
  ○ 40 questions
  ○ Lower stakes
  ○ Required every 2 years

● Content focuses on important developments in vascular surgery to assist diplomates in staying up to date

● VSB determines assessment content with input from diplomates (10) and societies

Vascular Surgery Assessment

● Assessment has an educational format:
  ○ Open book
  ○ No time limit per question
  ○ Immediate learner feedback – view correct/incorrect with rationales

● Take on own computer at home or office – no testing center!

● References and a list of topics are published on VSB website in advance to aid in study efforts

● Second attempt to answer incorrect questions offered at end of assessment

● Immediate results based on overall score (correct answers from 1st + 2nd attempts)

● Must pass one assessment every other year

● Two weeks to complete assessment once started
  ○ Can save results at any point and return later
  ○ If unsuccessful, can retake the assessment the following year (grace year)
  ○ If unsuccessful in grace year, must pass a secure exam

● All current ABS certificates are valid until expiration date

● Diplomates have spent ~40% less time to complete both attempts of this new assessment than it took to complete traditional recertification exam at a testing center

● It has taken an average of just over 3 hours from start to finish
  ○ Including study time and reading provided references
Other Program Requirements

- CME and self assessment - 150 credits of Category 1 CME relevant to your practice over five years / 50 must include self-assessment
  - Changes to 125 credits with no self-assessment required when diplomates pass their first Continuous Certification Assessment
- Full and unrestricted medical license
- Hospital or surgical center privileges
- Two reference forms submitted every five years
- Participation in a practice improvement program
- Operative log submitted every 10 years
- Annual fee once enrolled in the program

Assessment Feedback – Diplomate Surveys

Plan to Change Something in My Practice

Would Recommend This to a Colleague

Relevant to My Practice

This Assessment will Improve My Practice

Hours Spent Studying in Preparation for Assessment

Days Away from Work

Fair Assessment of Knowledge

Minimal Value Time for Practice

Plan to Change Something in My Practice

Would Recommend This to a Colleague
Assessment Feedback – Diplomate Surveys

CONCLUSIONS
Continuous Certification

- Evaluates knowledge and judgment that is more relevant to a diplomate’s practice
- Structured to highlight education with emphasis on changes in contemporary practice
- More convenience and flexibility
- Less burden to prepare, less anxiety to take
- Cost savings – no travel or time away from practice
- Maintains focus on improving patient care

Working hard to improve process for our patients and VSB diplomates