Focus on Diagnostic Radiology

ABR Online Longitudinal Assessment For Diagnostic Radiology
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The ABR has made a series of improvements to its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program recently, including expanded opportunities for meeting the requirements of Part 4 by giving credit for activities that diplomates are already performing as part of their practices or voluntary professional efforts (see www.theabr.org/moc-part4-activities). However, the biggest modification to MOC is still in process.

As most have heard, the ABR is modifying MOC Part 3 (Cognitive Expertise) with a pilot program. The 10-year MOC Exam will be replaced by ABR Online Longitudinal Assessment (ABR OLA). As the name suggests, this assessment will be taken online rather than in ABR examination centers, and it will be a continuous, rather than episodic, assessment. Although all the details of this project are not known at this time, this article will answer some common questions that we have been asked.

1. **How will I receive the questions?**
   You will be notified once a week via email that you have an opportunity to answer two questions, which will be available to you in myABR. You may choose to answer these questions immediately or delay your response to a time that is more convenient for you. The opportunity will be available for four weeks. When you choose to answer a question, you will have a brief time limit, typically one minute, to answer it.

2. **Will I still get to choose the clinical practice areas included in my assessment?**
   Yes, practice profile rules will not change. Diagnostic radiology diplomates without a subspecialty will be able to choose up to three clinical practice areas in which to receive questions.

3. **Who is writing these questions?**
   A committee, composed of academic and private practice radiologists who are all participating in MOC, has been formed for each of the traditional subspecialties of diagnostic radiology. Each committee member will write questions, which will be
reviewed by experienced editors. A large pool of questions will be developed, from which content will be pulled for each individual diplomate.

4. **What form will the questions take?**
   At the onset of this program, all questions will be multiple choice, single best answer. Questions will also include images.

5. **Will I know if I have answered the question correctly?**
   Yes, you will receive immediate feedback on your answer. Each question will have a brief explanation of the correct answer, and a reference will be given if you want to learn more.

6. **What if my answer is incorrect?**
   You will receive a similar question on the same topic in the future.

7. **How will I know if I am passing Part 3?**
   A passing threshold will be applied when a minimum number of questions, approximately 200, have been answered. Since a diplomate need only answer 52 questions a year, it will take a number of years to reach this target.

8. **When will this begin?**
   The ABR plans to conduct a pilot for a limited number of diplomates in the latter part of 2018. If all goes well with the pilot, the OLA product will be rolled out to all diagnostic radiology diplomates in 2019. OLA for other disciplines will follow when ready.

9. **I was supposed to take an MOC Exam in 2017. Will I be listed as “not meeting MOC requirements” because I can’t take the examination?**
   No. If you were meeting MOC requirements at the 2017 MOC Annual Review, then your Part 3 requirement is deferred until the rollout of OLA. If you were NOT meeting MOC requirements at this review because you had not taken an MOC examination in the past 10 years, you will be required to take an MOC examination. Please call the ABR office for more information.

10. **Is the MOC program being discontinued?**
    No. The MOC program is continuing, but the Part 3 Cognitive Expertise requirement has been deferred, until OLA is implemented, if you were meeting MOC requirements at the March 2, 2017, annual review. You will need to continue to attest to meeting the Part 1, 2, and 4 requirements each year between January 1 and March 1.