



American Board  
of Internal Medicine®

## **ALL DIPLOMATE SURVEY**

*Refining New Models for MOC Assessment*

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) invited all physicians with a valid e-mail address (N=195,482) to participate in a survey entitled “Refining New Models for MOC Assessment” to obtain feedback on two alternative maintenance pathways under consideration. The survey was open from September 7 to October 31, 2016, and included a probability sample (N=1,000) that was sent multiple reminders using multiple modes. We received 23,916 total responses (12.2%) from the population. We achieved a 39% participation rate from the sample and it was found to be representative of the population with respect to age, gender, generalist to subspecialist ratio and MOC experience. This summary report describes survey findings from the probability sample, which were corrected for non-response bias using available covariates and weighted to the population. To learn more about the survey results, contact [request@abim.org](mailto:request@abim.org).

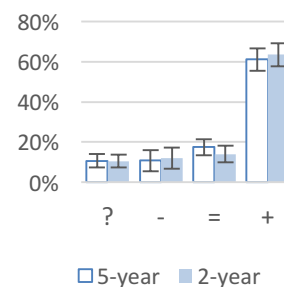
## Feedback on alternative maintenance pathways

Respondent ratings of each proposed alternative Maintenance Pathway at meeting the following goals:

### Goal 1: To identify gaps in knowledge

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
5-year	10.7% (7.5, 14.0)	10.9% (5.6, 16.1)	17.4% (13.3, 21.5)	61.0% (55.4, 66.6)
2-year	10.5% (7.3, 13.8)	12.0% (6.9, 17.2)	14.0% (10.9, 17.2)	63.4% (57.8, 69.0)

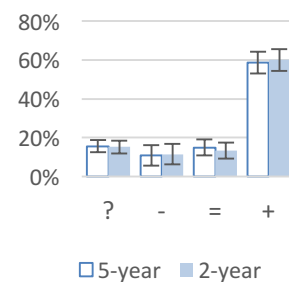
1. Very poor or poor; 2. Very well or well



### Goal 2: To provide links to educational resources to help you provide high quality care

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
5-year	15.6% (11.5, 19.7)	10.9% (5.7, 16.1)	14.9% (11.0, 18.8)	58.6% (52.6, 64.7)
2-year	15.2% (11.2, 19.3)	11.5% (6.3, 16.7)	13.2% (9.7, 16.8)	60.1% (55.7, 66.4)

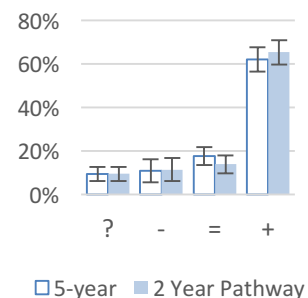
1. Very poor or poor; 2. Very well or well



### Goal 3: To help physicians stay current with medical knowledge and practice and demonstrate that they are doing so

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
5-year	9.4% (6.5, 12.3)	10.8% (13.3, 16.0)	17.7% (13.3, 22.1)	62.2% (57.0, 67.4)
2-year	9.5% (6.6, 12.4)	11.3% (6.1, 16.6)	13.8% (9.5, 18.1)	65.4% (60.1, 70.6)

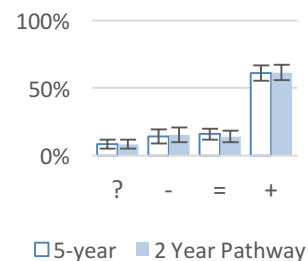
1. Very poor or poor; 2. Very well or well



### Goal 4: To reduce anxiety before, during, and after an assessment

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
5-year	8.6% (5.6, 11.5)	14.4% (9.5, 19.3)	16.1% (11.8, 20.3)	61.0% (55.5, 66.4)
2-year	8.7% (5.7, 11.7)	15.6% (10.7, 20.5)	14.3% (10.4, 18.2)	61.4% (56.4, )

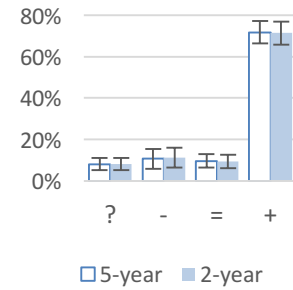
1. Very poor or poor; 2. Very well or well



**Goal 5: To create a more comfortable and convenient testing experience**

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
<b>5-year</b>	<b>8.0%</b> (5.0, 10.9)	<b>10.6%</b> (5.9, 15.3)	<b>9.6%</b> (6.3, 12.9)	<b>71.8%</b> (66.3, 77.3)
<b>2-year</b>	<b>8.0%</b> (5.0, 10.9)	<b>11.2%</b> (6.5, 15.9)	<b>9.4%</b> (6.2, 12.6)	<b>71.4%</b> (66.3, 77.3)

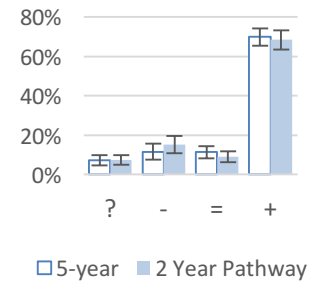
1. Very poor or poor; 2. Very well or well



**Alternative pathways compared with the current 10-year MOC exam**

Pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Less preferable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	More preferable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
<b>5-year</b>	<b>7.2%</b> (4.7, 9.8)	<b>11.6%</b> (7.5, 15.7)	<b>11.3%</b> (8.3, 14.3)	<b>69.8%</b> (65.4, 74.3)
<b>2-year</b>	<b>7.4%</b> (4.9, 9.9)	<b>15.3%</b> (10.8, 19.7)	<b>8.9%</b> (6.2, 11.7)	<b>68.4%</b> (63.5, 73.3)

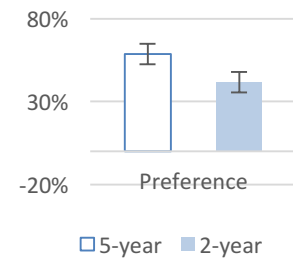
1. Much less or less preferable; 2. Much more or more preferable



**Preference between two alternative Maintenance Pathways**

<b>5-year<sup>1</sup></b> (95% CI)	<b>2-year</b> (95% CI)
<b>58.4%</b> (52.3, 64.6)	<b>41.6%</b> (35.4, 47.7)

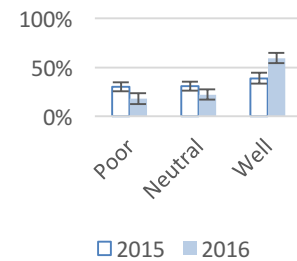
1. 17% difference (p=0.01)



## Additional feedback

ABIM effectiveness over the past several months at addressing the needs and concerns of the Internal Medicine and subspecialty communities

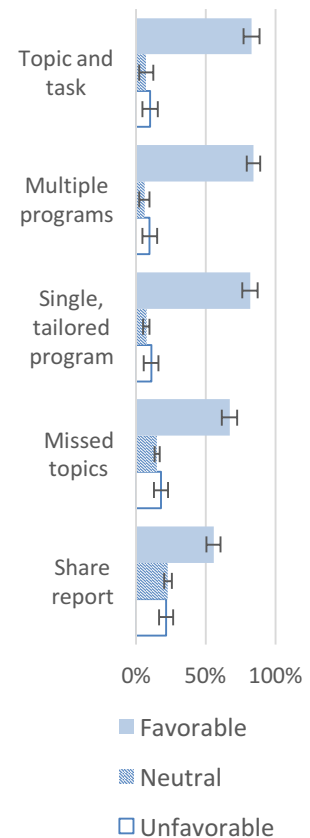
Pathway	Poor <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Well <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
<b>2016</b>	<b>18.1%</b> (12.4, 23.8)	<b>22.3%</b> (17.0, 27.6)	<b>59.6%</b> (54.5, 64.6)
<b>2015</b>	<b>30.1%</b> (25.5, 34.6)	<b>31.4%</b> (26.7, 36.1)	<b>38.5%</b> (32.9, 44.2)



1. Very well or well; 2. Very poorly or poorly

Favorability towards various ways the detailed feedback report might work. The report would be provided after the assessment to help identify knowledge gaps and link diplomates to educational resources to help close those gaps.

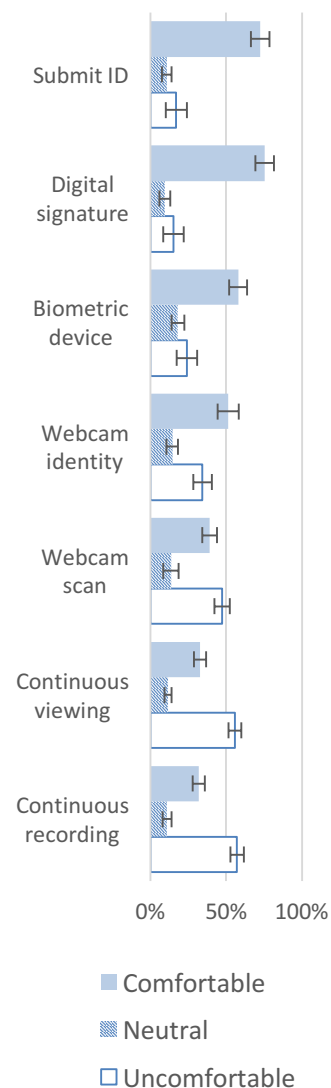
Feature	Favorable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Unfavorable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
The report lets you know the <b>topic and task for all questions</b> (not only those you missed).	<b>82.8%</b> (77.8, 87.8)	<b>7.2%</b> (4.7, 9.8)	<b>9.9%</b> (4.8, 15.1)
The report provides links to various <b>educational programs related to the topics of questions you missed</b> .	<b>84.2%</b> (78.9, 89.6)	<b>6.0%</b> (4.0, 8.0)	<b>9.8%</b> (4.6, 15.0)
The report provides a link to a <b>single, tailored educational program that addresses all the topics of questions you missed</b> .	<b>81.8%</b> (76.2, 87.3)	<b>7.4%</b> (5.1, 9.6)	<b>10.9%</b> (5.7, 16.0)
The report provides links to information related to <b>topics of questions you missed</b> , but not to formal educational programs.	<b>67.0%</b> (61.1, 71.9)	<b>15.1%</b> (11.4, 18.7)	<b>17.9%</b> (12.6, 23.2)
You can choose to <b>share your feedback report with educational providers</b> who will recommend a specific learning program for you.	<b>55.5%</b> (50.0, 61.1)	<b>22.9%</b> (17.8, 28.0)	<b>21.6%</b> (16.1, 27.1)



1. Very or somewhat comfortable; 2. Very or somewhat uncomfortable

Comfort with performing tasks associated with ensuring security during an online proctored session.

Task	Comfortable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Uncomfortable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
Submitting a <b>copy of your ID</b> when you register for the exam.	<b>72.3%</b> (67.8, 76.8)	<b>10.7%</b> (7.9, 13.5)	<b>17.0%</b> (13.0, 21.1)
Verifying your identity—before, during or after the session—using a <b>digital signature</b> .	75.3% (71.0, 79.7)	9.5% (7.2, 11.9)	15.2% (11.1, 19.2)
Verifying your identity—before, during or after the session—using a <b>biometric device</b> .	<b>57.9%</b> (52.8, 63.0)	<b>18.1%</b> (13.0, 23.2)	<b>24.0%</b> (19.2, 28.8)
Verifying your identity—before, during or after the session—using your computer’s <b>webcam</b> .	<b>51.3%</b> (44.9, 57.6)	<b>14.3%</b> (10.5, 18.1)	<b>34.4%</b> (27.5, 41.3)
Using your computer’s <b>webcam</b> —before, during or after the session—to <b>scan</b> the room in which you take the assessment.	<b>39.0%</b> (32.0, 45.9)	<b>13.6%</b> (9.2, 18.0)	<b>47.5%</b> (41.5, 53.5)
<b>Continuous viewing</b> (but not recording) by a live proctor of the entire testing session using your computer’s webcam.	<b>32.5%</b> (25.9, 39.2)	<b>11.7%</b> (8.2, 15.2)	<b>55.8%</b> (49.8, 61.8)
<b>Continuous recording</b> of the entire testing session using your computer’s webcam.	<b>32.0%</b> (25.1, 38.8)	<b>10.9%</b> (7.5, 14.2)	<b>57.2%</b> (51.0, 63.3)

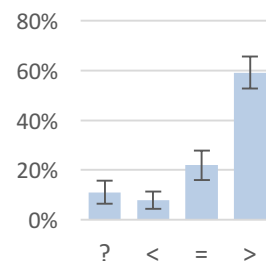


1. Very or somewhat comfortable; 2. Very or somewhat uncomfortable

Change in favorability of or preferred pathway if point requirements from MOC self-assessment activities were lower

Change to preferred pathway	Unsure (95% CI)	Less favorable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	About the same (95% CI)	More favorable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
	<b>11.0%</b> (6.4, 15.6)	<b>8.0%</b> (4.6, 11.5)	<b>21.9%</b> (16.1, 27.8)	<b>59.1%</b> (52.7, 65.5)

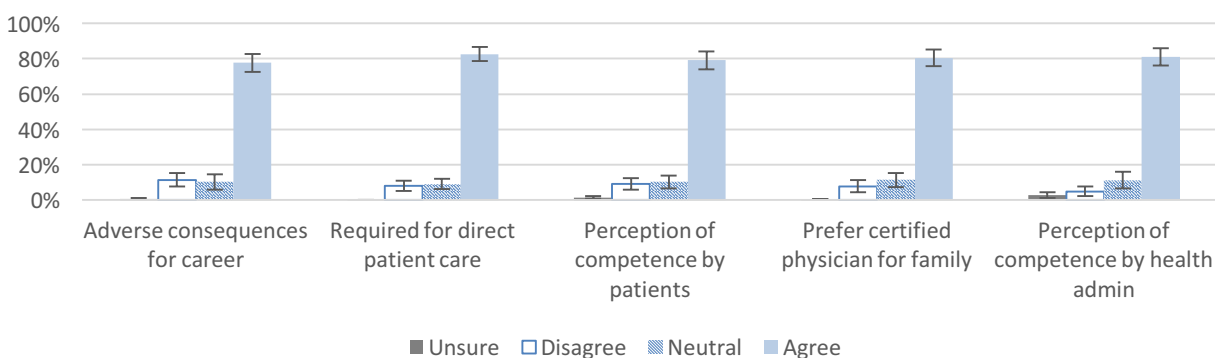
1. Much less or somewhat less favorable; 2. Much more or somewhat more favorable



## Diplomate attitudes toward certification

Statement	Unsure (95% CI)	Disagree <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Agree <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
Not having current board certification from ABIM would have adverse consequences for my career.	<b>0.6%</b> (0.1, 1.0)	<b>11.5%</b> (7.7, 15.4)	<b>10.3%</b> (6.0, 14.6)	<b>77.7%</b> (72.6, 82.7)
Physicians working in direct patient care should be board certified.	<b>0.1%</b> (-)	<b>8.2%</b> (5.3, 11.0)	<b>9.1%</b> (5.9, 12.3)	<b>82.6%</b> (78.5, 86.7)
Patients perceive board-certified physicians to be more competent than physicians who are not board certified.	<b>1.4%</b> (0.6, 2.2)	<b>9.1%</b> (1.6, 5.9)	<b>10.3%</b> (6.8, 13.7)	<b>79.2%</b> (74.1, 84.3)
If a family member needs to see a physician, I prefer them to see a physician who is board-certified.	<b>0.4%</b> (-)	<b>7.8%</b> (4.4, 11.2)	<b>11.4%</b> (7.4, 15.4)	<b>80.5%</b> (75.6, 85.3)
Health care administrators perceive board-certified physicians to be more competent than physicians who are not board certified.	<b>2.7%</b> (1.0, 4.5)	<b>4.9%</b> (2.3, 7.5)	<b>11.3%</b> (6.7, 16.0)	<b>81.0%</b> (76.1, 86.0)

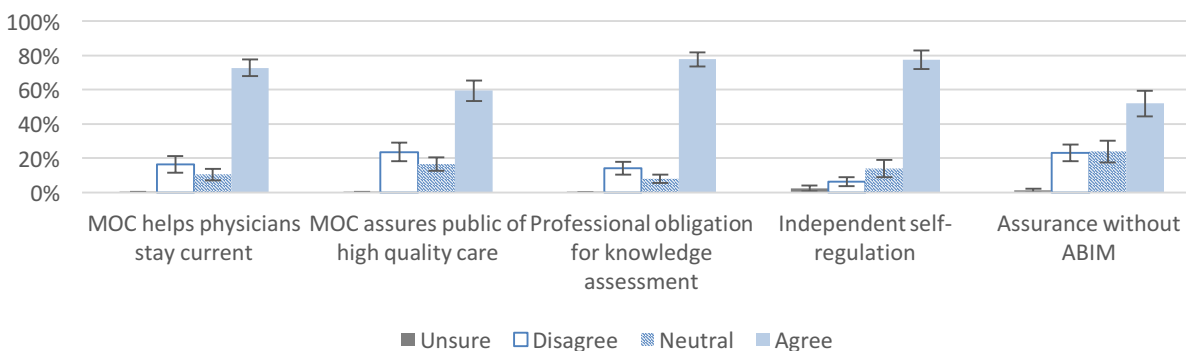
1. Strongly disagree or agree; 2. Strongly agree or agree



Diplomate attitudes toward certification (*continued*)

Statement	Unsure (95% CI)	Disagree <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Agree <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
A physician-designed, structured MOC program helps physicians stay current.	<b>0.3%</b> (-)	<b>16.4%</b> (11.6, 21.2)	<b>10.5%</b> (7.2, 13.9)	<b>72.7%</b> (67.9, 77.5)
MOC assures the public that physicians are qualified to deliver high quality medical care.	<b>0.4%</b> (-)	<b>23.7%</b> (18.4, 28.9)	<b>16.5%</b> (12.6, 20.4)	<b>59.4%</b> (53.5, 65.2)
Physicians have a professional obligation to periodically show through formal assessment that they are staying current.	<b>0.1%</b> (-)	<b>14.3%</b> (10.5, 18.0)	<b>7.9%</b> (5.6, 10.3)	<b>77.7%</b> (73.7, 81.7)
Self-regulation through an independent organization is better than government assessment of physician competence.	<b>2.5%</b> (0.8, 4.1)	<b>6.2%</b> (3.5, 8.8)	<b>13.9%</b> (9.0, 18.8)	<b>77.4%</b> (72.0, 82.9)
Patients can trust physicians to keep up to date without regulation by an independent review organization like the ABIM.	<b>1.1%</b> (0.1, 2.2)	<b>23.1%</b> (18.3, 27.9)	<b>23.9%</b> (17.5, 30.2)	<b>51.9%</b> (44.4, 59.4)

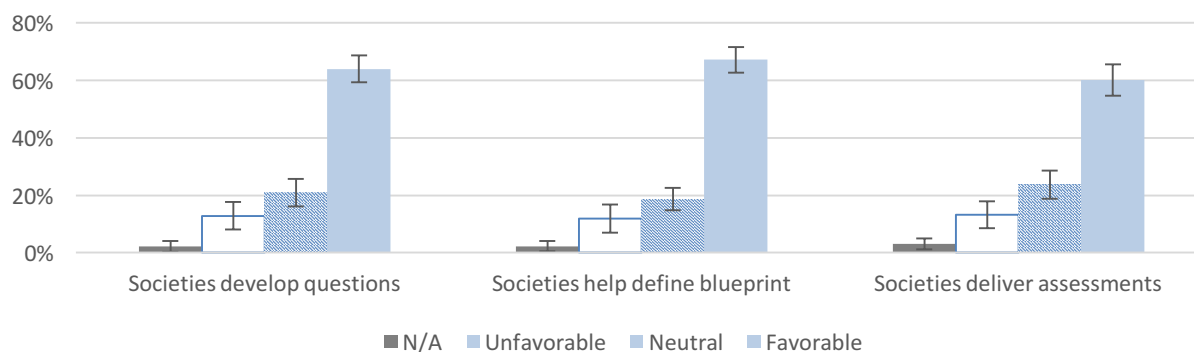
1. Strongly disagree or disagree; 2. Strongly agree or agree



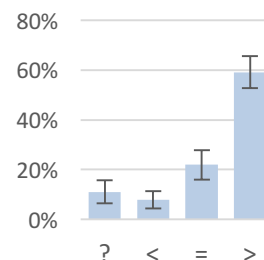
## Diplomate reaction to collaboration with specialty societies

Statement	Not applicable (95% CI)	Unfavorable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	Neutral (95% CI)	Favorable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
Specialty societies develop questions that are used on ABIM assessments.	<b>2.2%</b> (0.4, 4.0)	<b>12.9%</b> (8.0, 17.7)	<b>21.0%</b> (16.2, 25.8)	<b>64.0%</b> (59.2, 68.7)
Specialty societies work with ABIM in defining the blueprint (plan) that is used to develop ABIM assessments.	<b>2.3%</b> (0.5, 4.1)	<b>11.8%</b> (6.9, 16.7)	<b>18.8%</b> (14.9, 22.7)	<b>67.1%</b> (62.7, 71.6)
Specialty societies ensure exam security, verify identities, and deliver assessments that are recognized by ABIM.	<b>3.2%</b> (1.2, 5.1)	<b>13.1%</b> (8.4, 17.8)	<b>23.7%</b> (18.8, 28.6)	<b>60.0%</b> (54.6, 65.5)

1. Very or somewhat unfavorable; 2. Very or somewhat favorable



Statement	Less favorable <sup>1</sup> (95% CI)	About the same (95% CI)	More favorable <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
Favorability of a potential ABIM/medical specialty societies collaborative program compared to the alternative maintenance pathways.	<b>10.7%</b> (4.9, 16.5)	<b>17.4%</b> (12.0, 22.7)	<b>71.9%</b> (64.5, 79.4)



1. Much less or somewhat less favorable; 2. Much more or somewhat more favorable