

Talking Points on Longitudinal Assessment

- On August 21 – 22 [ABIM announced to all diplomates](#) a decision by the Board of Directors **committing to evolve ABIM’s program to provide a longitudinal assessment option for maintenance of certification**, offering a self-paced pathway for physicians to acquire and demonstrate ongoing knowledge. The traditional long form assessment will also remain an option as some physicians have expressed a preference for a point in time exam taken less frequently.
- Developing a longitudinal assessment is part of ABIM’s **ongoing evolution**.
 - We’ve heard from physicians they prefer a more self-paced process that better fits into their busy lives, and that’s what we are aiming to create.
 - As part of this development, we are looking at ways to allow physicians flexibility with how many questions they answer at a time, as long as they answer a specified number within a given time period.
- We want to **hear from the physician community**.
 - We see the development of the longitudinal assessment option as an ongoing collaboration with the internal medicine community, with many opportunities for feedback throughout the process.
 - We’ve already had a strong initial response to the announcement, and will spend a lot of time reviewing what physicians have told us. Their feedback will truly inform and guide our decisions.
 - We encourage all internists to share their feedback with ABIM by [submitting a comment or suggestion](#).
- We’ve looked at what other Boards have launched recently – including the American Board of Anesthesiology’s MOCA Minute – and we’re using what they’ve learned and feedback from their physicians to help inform our work.
- A longitudinal assessment aligns with recommendations from the ABMS Vision Commission report, and several other Boards that have such an option have reported its popularity among diplomates.
- We are **early in the process** with a lot of details to be worked out. Right now we are focused on engaging with the community and listening to what they would like to see in the longitudinal assessment option.
 - That feedback will help ABIM focus on what is important to physicians, and what work we need to do to develop the longitudinal assessment option. We expect to be able to announce more details about the timeline later this fall.
- Working with specialty societies and soliciting feedback from diplomates has driven many enhancements to our programs over the last several years: revising the exam blueprints, incorporating UpToDate in the assessment, Collaborative Maintenance Pathways, and introducing the Knowledge Check-In, to name a few.
- ABIM and the Board of Directors are still working through many details and will update the community when more information is available. For now **all current MOC program requirements remain in place**.