

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 316
(A-18)

Introduced by: Michigan

Subject: End "Part 4 Improvement in Medical Practice" Requirement for ABMS MOC®

Referred to: Reference Committee C
(Sherri Baker, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, A mandatory component of American Board of Medical Specialties Maintenance of
2 Certification (ABMS MOC®) Program is the "Part 4 Improvement in Medical Practice"; and
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4 Whereas, Non-grandfathered physicians are required to participate in these proprietary Part 4
5 quality improvement projects upon threat of losing board certification, and subsequent hospital
6 privileges and insurance plan participation; and
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8 Whereas, Innovative and relevant "quality improvement" projects take place daily in physician
9 offices as part of our commitment to excellence, outside of ABMS MOC® mandates; and
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11 Whereas, Quality improvement is not the proprietary product of ABMS MOC®; and
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13 Whereas, Overwhelming physician opinion is that these proprietary ABMS MOC® projects are
14 duplicative busywork with little application to patient care; and
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16 Whereas, ABMS MOC® diverts time and resources from relevant medical research and quality
17 improvement; and
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19 Whereas, There is no data to suggest any difference in patient health outcomes from ABMS
20 MOC® quality improvement projects versus quality improvement projects that do not grant
21 ABMS MOC® credit; and
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23 Whereas, Published data from these quality improvement projects are used by ABMS as proof,
24 not of innovative physician efforts to improve patient outcomes, but as justification for the
25 proprietary ABMS MOC® product to insurers, hospitals, and the Internal Revenue Service; and
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27 Whereas, Physicians find themselves unwilling research subjects and their patient data used in
28 the promotion of a proprietary educational product; therefore be it
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30 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association call for an end to the mandatory American
31 Board of Medical Specialties "Part 4 Improvement in Medical Practice" maintenance of
32 certification requirement. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000.

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The topic of this resolution is currently under study by the Council on Medical Education.

[See AMA Policies: Maintenance of Certification H-275.924; Maintenance of Certification and Osteopathic Continuous Certification D-275.954](#)