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An Open Letter to all ABPM Diplomates Regarding Changes to the Maintenance of Certification Program.

Fellow ABPM Diplomate:

In 2010, the American Board of Medical Specialties' Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program reached its 10th anniversary. As the MOC program continues to evolve, there will be a number of changes in 2011 – changes involving all ABPM Diplomates, whether you hold a *lifetime* or time-limited certificate.

The most significant change takes place in August 2011, when all ABMS Member Boards will be required to report the MOC participation status of all Diplomates, including those with lifetime certificates. This new requirement is in response to expectations from the public and external agencies, such as the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), for increased professional transparency and accountability.

While ABPM will report whether a Diplomate is participating in the MOC program, this requirement does not affect the status of your lifetime certificate – that certification remains unchanged. Should you wish to participate in the MOC program, you may do so on a voluntary basis. By definition, you will be reported as “participating in MOC” as soon as you register for MOC on the ABPM web site. You will then have 3 years to begin earning lifelong learning/self-assessment CME credits (Part 2 of MOC).

The ABPM MOC program has a major benefit for all ABPM certificate holders, both lifetime and time-limited. In 2010 the FSMB adopted a new policy termed Maintenance of Licensure (MOL). Similar to the ABMS MOC program, Maintenance of Licensure is slowly being adopted by many of the states as a condition for state medical licensure renewal. The good news is participation in the ABMS MOC program has been approved by the FSMB as meeting the annual MOL requirements.

For more information on the ABPM Maintenance of Certification program, please visit the ABPM website at <https://www.theabpm.org/>. You can also learn more details about the new requirements by visiting the ABPM booth in the exhibit hall at each of the Preventive Medicine Specialty Societies' 2011 meetings.

Sincerely,

Glenn Merchant, M.D., M.P.H. & T.M.