

SUBJECT: Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC)  
SUBMITTED BY: California Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
REFERRED TO: 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 7

- 1 WHEREAS, while the current method of requiring board certification exams every seven to ten years has  
2 proven effective for some physicians to assure competency, there is dissatisfaction for many  
3 physicians due to the expense, time required away from practice, and condensed study  
4 requirements; and  
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- 6 WHEREAS, there is also dissatisfaction among many osteopathic physicians regarding the time and cost  
7 of the current Practice Performance Assessment modular system; and  
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- 9 WHEREAS, a potential alternative to the certification examinations is the use of on-going “continuous  
10 learning nodes” which demonstrate competency by regularly testing physicians on specific subject  
11 matter tailored to the physician’s type of practice; and  
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- 13 WHEREAS, this method requires only a few minutes of time per day to complete the examination task and  
14 resume the practice of medicine; and  
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- 16 WHEREAS, this new additional pathway for maintenance of board certification could provide physicians  
17 “lifetime board certification” provided these physicians enroll and are compliant in the maintenance  
18 of licensure teaching modules; and  
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- 20 WHEREAS, this new method of Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification  
21 (MOC) would allow American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) certification a  
22 method to identify specific subsections of family medicine which could be continually reinforced and  
23 tested in a method that provides for optimum patient outcomes; and  
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- 25 WHEREAS, offering of an Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC)  
26 to compliant physicians through the testing module could attract new residency graduates of the  
27 ACGME Single Accreditation System to AOBFP board certification; and  
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- 29 WHEREAS, current experience with those DO residency graduates from dual certification programs result  
30 in a majority of the DO residents opting for the American Board of Medical Specialists which will  
31 likely continue under a Single Unified Graduate Medical Education Pathway and result in the loss of  
32 ACOFP membership; and  
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- 34 WHEREAS, this flexibility would allow AOBFP to offer maintenance of licensure and certification for all  
35 physicians in Osteopathic focused programs by including them in the osteopathic board certification  
36 modules; now, therefore be it  
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- 38 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) work with the American  
39 Osteopathic Association’s Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists and the American Osteopathic Board of  
40 Family Physicians (AOBFP) to study options for Osteopathic Continuous Certification  
41 (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) pathway for physicians who choose AOBFP certification  
42 utilizing software such as one incorporating “intelligent learning engine” capability including  
43 consideration of a pilot program by AOBFP and report back to the Congress of Delegates at its next  
44 meeting.

45 RESOLVED, that if such options cannot be adequately proven to improve patient safety, quality of care and  
46 physician competency, then current methods for MOC/OCC should be carefully studied, reviewed  
47 and possibly suspended so as not to be redundant with quality and safety reporting, as well as  
48 practice activities improvement, already enumerated in the Macra Legislation.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2017