Message from the MOC Committee Chair

Update on CertLink Longitudinal Assessment Pilot Program

Ruth Lim, M.D., MOC Committee Chair

After a successful soft launch of our CertLink™ longitudinal assessment pilot program, the ABNM announced its full launch in April 2018. CertLink, developed for the ABMS Member Boards, periodically delivers high-quality, image-rich nuclear medicine questions with detailed explanations and references directly to enrolled ABNM Diplomates. Longitudinal assessment with CertLink is being evaluated as an alternative to the proctored, secure MOC examination that is required of ABNM time-limited certificate holders every 10 years. CertLink is also a practical, easy-to-use tool for lifetime certificate holders to keep current and test their knowledge. The CertLink pilot program will continue for a total of 4 years.

ABNM Diplomates enrolled in CertLink have agreed to participate in surveys administered by the ABMS. The survey results obtained at the conclusion of the soft launch have provided valuable insight into the learning preferences of our ABNM Diplomates, including relevance of questions to their practice, quality of questions/images, user interface, and electronic device preferences. These survey results enable the ABNM to continue to refine and improve the longitudinal assessment experience of our Diplomates. This is what some of our Diplomates have to say thus far about CertLink:

“It is less stressful than regular MOC exam…. the information obtained immediately after taking the question is much more retained than taking many questions and not knowing what you got right…. I believe it will have a better impact on patient care.”

“I think CertLink is a great tool for MOC as well as learning…For the most part the questions have been a good reflection of clinical practice…. I find myself looking forward to the questions.”

“Explanations are clear and concise. I also utilize the references provided for additional information.”
“...answering questions correctly reinforces the feeling that you are still ‘running with the pack’ instead of drifting away on your own out in private practice....getting questions wrong or answering with less confidence is a nice [way] to confront yourself with areas of weakness.”

“Refreshed my memory on child abuse presentation on bone scans, typical ureterocele and MAG3.... Love it. A much better way of learning.”

Eligible Diplomates can register for CertLink by visiting the CertLink homepage. Additional information regarding ABNM’s CertLink program can be found on the Frequently Asked Questions page on the ABNM website.

- Diplomates with time-limited certificates expiring in 2022 or 2023 must enroll by December 1, 2018 to become eligible for a waiver for the MOC exam.

- Diplomates with time-limited certificates expiring after 2023 have no specific enrollment deadline yet but are encouraged to begin participating as soon as possible. The enrollment deadline for these diplomates will be announced during 2019.

- Diplomates with time limited certificates that expire prior 2022 who have not enrolled in Certlink will need to take the MOC exam.

- Diplomates with lifetime certificates may enroll at any time.

There is no difference in cost between participating in CertLink versus taking the MOC examination for Diplomates who are currently participating in MOC. During the pilot period, CertLink is being offered as an alternative to the MOC examination. You may take the MOC examination instead of participating in CertLink. If you are not currently participating in MOC and would like to enroll in CertLink, please visit the FAQs page. All Diplomates are encouraged to participate in CertLink, regardless of certificate expiry date or current MOC status.

For a preview of the CertLink experience, this series of short videos introduced by Dr. Leonie Gordon provides a detailed overview of the CertLink platform, from how to create a support ticket to answering assessment questions. The ABNM would like to thank all of our CertLink participants for their support in this exciting pilot program!