



American Academy of
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

June 2021

The Academy (AAPM&R) recognizes and appreciates the recent efforts of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) to transform Maintenance of Certification® and address many of the concerns expressed by the Academy and our members in the PM&R community. The replacement of the high stakes, expensive, MOC Part III exam with the introduced Longitudinal Assessment (LA-PM&R) is a significant step forward.

The Academy has continued to advocate to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the ABPMR for further changes in the Continuing Certification process, consistent with our [previous positions](#). Continuing certification must be meaningful, demonstrate value for physiatrists and reduce the financial burden of certification.

We again specifically urge ABPMR to suspend the Quality Improvement requirement (previously MOC Part IV/PIP) as a component of continuing certification. We encourage our members to express this concern, and any other concerns, directly to the ABMS during the [current open comment period](#) on their proposed draft standards for continuing certification (**Deadline is July 8, 2021**). Importantly, the Academy will continue to support the position that Board certification should not be a criterion for medical licensing, nor a sole criterion for credentialing and/or privileging.

We believe there continues to be confusion regarding the purpose and functions of the two organizations – the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) and the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR). AAPM&R and the ABPMR are **unique** and **separate entities**. The ABPMR sets certification and continuing certification requirements. Once those requirements are determined by ABPMR, AAPM&R commits to provide resources and support for our members so they can successfully meet the ABPMR requirements, even as we continue to advocate to make those requirements as meaningful and relevant as possible. AAPM&R is steadfast in supporting our members' professional success, and their commitment and ability to advance high quality patient care.

Sincerely,

AAPM&R Board of Governors
