



# THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS

111 Silver Cedar Court, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514-1513  
Phone: (919) 929-0461 • Fax: (919) 929-9255 • [abped@abped.org](mailto:abped@abped.org) • [www.abp.org](http://www.abp.org)

November 8, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I am grateful for the thoughts you have shared with the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) as we all strive to improve the health and wellbeing of children. We are constantly working to enhance the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, and together we are making the activities and assessments align more closely with the rapidly-changing environment of pediatric practice. Certification and MOC provide common, measurable benchmarks to assure our patients, the public – and ourselves – that we are maintaining high standards of excellence.

### Official MOCA-Peds Launch in 2019 after Completion of Pilot Projects

In this spirit, I am pleased to announce that in 2019, the ABP will officially offer a new option for diplomates to meet the Part 3 (Assessment of Cognitive Knowledge) requirement. *Maintenance of Certification Assessment for Pediatrics (MOCA-Peds)* is an online assessment program that also incorporates more opportunity for learning than the traditional exam taken at a secure testing center. MOCA-Peds participants find out immediately whether their answer was correct, and get a rationale for the right answer.

The ABP launched MOCA-Peds as a pilot this past January, and we are confident that the platform provides a reliable measure of the knowledge that a pediatrician should possess. We will continue to pilot MOCA-Peds in 2018, adjusting the platform based on experiences of about 10,000 pediatricians participating in 2017 and 2018.

Pediatricians will participate in MOCA-Peds each year, and if they are meeting the passing standard at the end of Year 4, participation in Year 5 will be optional. The ABP also will offer Part 2 (life-long learning) credit to MOCA-Peds participations for each year they meet the passing standard.

### MOCA-Peds as the Default Knowledge Assessment Option within the 5-year MOC Cycle

MOCA-Peds will become the default option in 2019 for diplomates to meet the assessment requirement within each 5-year MOC cycle and the cost is included in the MOC fee. However, if pediatricians prefer not to participate, they will have the option to take the proctored exam at a secure testing center for an additional fee, which will cover the costs charged by the testing center and associated expenses. Pediatricians who do not meet the passing standard for MOCA-Peds also will have the opportunity to take the proctored exam at a secure testing facility for the additional fee. To remain certified, diplomates are required to either pass MOCA-Peds or a proctored exam every five years.

(continued. . .)

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Maintenance of Certification Assessment for Pediatrics (MOCA-Peds)  
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## MOCA-Peds for Subspecialties

In 2017-18, we have been piloting versions of MOCA-Peds for General Pediatrics. We will soon offer MOCA-Peds for all 15 pediatric subspecialty certifications as well. The first subspecialty versions will be available beginning in 2019. Then, each year through 2022, we will roll out three or four additional subspecialty versions. Beginning in 2018, exam due dates for all subspecialists will be postponed until MOCA-Peds is available in their subspecialty. MOCA-Peds will be available in 2019 for Child Abuse, Gastroenterology and Infectious Disease certificates as well as General Pediatrics.

## Information Resources and Next Steps

The ABP will make a general announcement about this decision in January, after the 2018 pilot is underway. I wanted to inform you of the news in advance. As leaders in the field, you are in a position to help spread the word and respond to questions pediatricians may have. We wanted to provide background for you and answer any questions you may have. Additional information is available on [our website](#) as [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [video tutorials](#), [sample questions](#) and more.

If you have specific questions, please contact us at [mocapeds@abped.org](mailto:mocapeds@abped.org) or call (919) 929-0461. You may reach out to me directly as well at [dnichols@abped.org](mailto:dnichols@abped.org) or to [Linda Althouse](#), Vice President of Psychometrics and Assessment Services and [Virginia Moyer](#), Vice President of Maintenance of Certification and Quality.

We are enthusiastic about MOCA-Peds, as well as other recent changes to MOC. I have attached a list of MOC improvements for your information. We look forward to answering your questions and hearing your experiences with MOCA-Peds.

Sincerely,

  
David G. Nichols, MD, MBA  
President & CEO