



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY®



American Board  
of Internal Medicine®

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR ABIM **MOC** **ASSESSMENT OPTIONS**

You now have 3 options  
for meeting your ABIM MOC  
assessment requirement.

***[ACC.org/MOCoptions](https://acc.org/MOCoptions)***

**Use the information  
inside to compare the  
options and select the  
one that's best for you.**

# WHICH ASSESSMENT OPTION IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Over the last few years, the options for meeting your American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) assessment requirements have increased, and you may be unclear about what they are and uncertain about which to choose. Below are the descriptions of the options available to fulfill your ABIM MOC assessment requirement:

- 1. Traditional 10-year MOC Exam:** This exam covers the breadth of the field and must be taken at a testing center. Passing the exam meets your MOC assessment requirement for the next 10 years. For more information, visit [www.abim.org](http://www.abim.org).
- 2. Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (CMP):** This assessment option is delivered through ACC's Self-Assessment Programs (SAPs) and focuses on 20% of the field each year, allowing you to refresh your knowledge of the entire field over a 5-year period. When you've successfully completed your first 5-year cycle, you start over again - it's all about continuous learning. Yearly participation entails engaging in the educational material for that year's topic, scoring 70% or better on that topic's practice questions and passing a yearly Performance Assessment (a 60-question test on that year's topic). You'll have two chances to pass each year. For more information, visit [www.ACC.org/CMP](http://www.ACC.org/CMP).
- 3. Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment (LKA):** This assessment option launched in January 2022 and is a 5-year cycle in which you answer questions covering the entire field on an ongoing basis. You are eligible to enroll in your assessment due year and will receive feedback on how you're performing along the way, and you'll remain certified throughout the entire 5-year period as long as you meet the LKA participation requirement and all other MOC requirements. A series of 30 questions will be offered every quarter and you can choose to not open 100 out of the 600 total questions over the 5-year cycle if you need a break. At the end of the 5-year cycle a determination will be made as to whether you met the performance standard. For more information, visit [www.abim.org/lka](http://www.abim.org/lka).

Visit [www.ACC.org/MOCoptions](http://www.ACC.org/MOCoptions) to learn more.

# LEARN THE DETAILS OF EACH OPTION AVAILABLE TO YOU

Understanding the difference between the MOC assessment options and choosing the one that works best for you can be challenging. The following table compares the three options available to participating clinicians, including the traditional 10-year MOC exam, the Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment (LKA) and the Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (CMP) delivered through ACC's Self-Assessment Programs. Use the information in the chart to compare the options and select the one that's best for you.





		Traditional, 10-year MOC Exam	Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (delivered through ACC's SAPs)	Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment
	Delivered by	ABIM	ACC and ABIM	ABIM
1	Required Frequency	Every 10 Years	Yearly	5-year cycle, with 30 questions offered each quarter. Must open at least 500 out of 600 questions offered over five years to meet the LKA Participation Requirement. Start the year your MOC assessment requirement is due.
2	Breadth of Discipline Covered	100% of the field.	20% of the field each year. Over 5 years, your entire knowledge base is refreshed, and you start over again in year 6.	100% of the field.
3	Number of Questions	180 questions	60 questions per Performance Assessment each year.	120 questions offered each year (30 per quarter and you may choose not to open 100 over each 5-year cycle).
4	Location	Test center only	At home or workplace. Delivered through ACC's Self-Assessment Programs    	Anywhere with an internet connection.
5	Available in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiovascular Disease</li> <li>Interventional Cardiology</li> <li>Clinical Cardiac EP</li> <li>Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiovascular Disease</li> <li>Interventional Cardiology</li> <li>Clinical Cardiac EP</li> <li>Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiovascular Disease</li> <li>Interventional Cardiology</li> <li>Clinical Cardiac EP - launch TBD</li> </ul>
6	Learning Materials Included	No	Yes Educational text, presentations, and hundreds of practice questions are included in each CMP SAP.	No - physicians can access all the materials they use in practice (except another person)  Immediate feedback is provided after all questions. Regular score reports are provided beginning in the second year of participation.

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		Traditional, 10-year MOC Exam	Collaborative Maintenance Pathway (delivered through ACC's SAPs)	Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment
	Delivered by	ABIM	ACC and ABIM	ABIM
7	Open Book	Yes – Access to UpToDate®	Yes, through the SAP educational material, or through any resource except another person.	Yes, you may use any resource except another person.
8	Immediate Results	No, within 3 months of administration.	Yes. 85% of participants will receive immediate feedback about their pass/fail status upon submitting the assessment.  All participants will receive a detailed score report 2 weeks after the performance assessment window closes.	The LKA Performance Standard indicates whether you met the passing score at the end of the 5-year cycle. While you'll receive feedback on how you're doing along the way, including how you are performing relative to the passing score, a determination is made at the end of the 5th year if you've met the Performance Standard.
9	Availability	2 times a year	Study materials available at all times. Performance Assessments available during 2 nine-day windows each year.	New questions delivered quarterly.
10	Points	20 MOC points for every assessment attempt.	Each CMP SAP offers 47 - 194 CME and MOC points per year.	0.2 MOC points for every correct answer.  20 MOC points for every 100 questions answered correctly.
11	Maximum amount of time required to participate	Study time varies based on each participant.  One full day of testing. <i>(approximately 2 minutes per question)</i>	Time varies by participant and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time to answer practice questions and score 70% or better.</li> <li>• 2 - 3 hours to complete a performance assessment (exact time varies by specialty)</li> </ul>	Study time varies based on each participant.  10 hours per year to complete the quarterly questions.  <i>(30 questions x 5 minutes per question each quarter = 2.5 hours per quarter)</i>
12	When can you first attempt/take?	You can first attempt in year 6.	To gain experience with the program <b><i>without the stress of achieving a passing score</i></b> , start early (before the year your MOC assessment is due).	You can start the year your MOC assessment is due.
13	What happens if you don't pass?	If you don't pass in the year your assessment is due, you won't lose certification as long as you are meeting your other MOC requirements. You can take the traditional, 10-year MOC exam in the following year, and if you pass and all other MOC requirements are met you will remain certified and your next assessment will be due in 10 years.		

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