

Title: Public Access to Initial Board Certification Status of Time-Limited ABMS Diplomates

Introduced by: Domenic Federico, MD for the Kent County Delegation

Original Author: Megan Edison, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: **APPROVE**

Whereas, initial American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) board certification is a credential of great accomplishment for many physicians, and

Whereas, initial ABMS board certification is all that is required of time-unlimited or “grandfathered” physicians, and

Whereas, existing American Medical Association policy on Maintenance of Certification H-275.924 protects the status of “grandfathered” physicians, stating ‘No qualifiers or restrictions should be placed on diplomates with lifetime board certification recognized by the ABMS related to their participation in MOC,’ and

Whereas, the names of grandfathered physicians are available when verifying certification status on ABMS credentialing websites, indicating the date of initial certification, regardless of their participation in Maintenance of Certification (MOC), and

Whereas, similar protections for physicians holding time-limited certificates do not exist, and

Whereas, the ABMS and ABMS member boards erase the name of time-limited physicians when they choose not to participate in any of the 4 parts of MOC, regardless of how many times the physician has passed his or her board examinations, and

Whereas, under this punitive system that erases the name of time-limited physicians, the only way for the public to verify initial certification is via formal inquiry and a fee, and

Whereas, this punitive system causes great harm to time-limited diplomates during professional physician credentialing, when initial certification is not readily available, and

Whereas, this punitive system causes great harm to time-limited diplomates in terms of patient trust under the current direct-to-consumer advertising campaigns directing patients and families to “verify if your doctor is board certified”, when patients and families are not able to access initial board certification status of time-limited diplomates; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That our Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to amend the AMA Principles of Maintenance of Certification (MOC), Maintenance of Certification H-275.924, by addition (**bold type**) as follows:

26. The initial certification status of time-limited diplomates shall be listed and publicly available on all American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and ABMS Member Boards certification websites. The names and initial certification status of time-limited diplomates shall not be removed from ABMS and ABMS Member Boards credentialing websites even if the diplomate chooses not to participate in MOC.