EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PS90 – Omnibus Survey 2014

Pediatricians’ Views on Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

The topic of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for Periodic Survey of Fellows #90 was one of two topics included on the 2014 annual Omnibus Periodic Survey of Fellows. The Omnibus survey was initiated to address emergent issues as identified by the AAP Board of Directors to support the AAP Strategic Plan. The MOC questions addressed pediatricians’ understanding of MOC requirements, extent of participation, opinion on the usefulness of MOC, and barriers to participation.

PS#90 was an eight-page self-administered questionnaire sent to 1,578 nonretired U.S. members of the AAP, October 2014 to March 2015; response to the survey was 47% (745 respondents, including pediatric residents). Analysis for this final report excludes trainees and those for whom MOC does not apply (i.e., members who are not or will not be certified in pediatrics or have permanent board certification); analysis group = 530 eligible respondents.

Findings:

Understanding of ABP Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program

Seven out of ten pediatricians have a good understanding of most of the requirements for Part 2 and Part 3 MOC; only about one-half understand most of the requirements for Part 4.

- Seventy percent of pediatricians say they “very” or “moderately” well understand the requirements of the MOC Part 2 (Lifelong learning and self-assessment).
- Three-fourths of pediatricians (77%) say they “very” or “moderately” well understand the requirements of the MOC Part 3 (Cognitive expertise – secure exam).
- Slightly more than half of pediatricians (55%) say they “very” or “moderately” well understand the requirements of the MOC Part 4 (Performance in practice and Quality Improvement).

Among those who are currently participating in the ABP MOC program (93% of respondents):

- More than one-third of pediatricians (37%) who are currently participating in the ABP MOC program are unsure when their next 100-point MOC cycle ends.
- Most pediatricians (72%) use the ABP programs to meet their MOC Part 2 or 4 requirements; however 65% use the AAP National or Chapter programs to meet these requirements. Thirty-five percent also named their own practice/institution as the source of programs to meet MOC requirements.

Opinion on Usefulness of MOC

Generally, pediatricians do not think participating in MOC enhances their ability to gain knowledge or skills in their profession or improves patient care.

- Two-thirds of pediatricians (67%) say their current work allows them adequate opportunity to gain new knowledge/skills important to their profession and nearly as many (63%) say they routinely make time for self-directed learning, even with demanding work schedules and family obligations.
• Only 4 in 10 pediatricians (39%) think external credentialing, like MOC, is important to maintain the public trust in the quality of medical providers.
• One-half of pediatricians think participating in MOC Part 2 activities helps them achieve their lifelong learning goals, 42% agree that completing the MOC Part 3 examination measures their knowledge base of pediatric care, and only 18% of pediatricians say participating in MOC Part 4 activities improves their ability to care for patients.

Barriers to Participation in MOC

Amount of time, high cost, and lack of available relevant Part 4 MOC activities are named as barriers to participation by a majority of pediatricians.

• Nearly three-fourths of pediatricians (74%) say the amount of time required to fulfill MOC requirements is a barrier to participation.
• One-half of pediatricians say the overall cost of MOC is a barrier to participation.
• Sixty percent of pediatricians say the lack of relevant Part 4 MOC activities are a barrier to participation and 37% say the lack of relevant Part 2 MOC activities are a barrier to participation.

Pediatricians’ Needs to Complete MOC Requirements

A large majority of pediatricians say more choices to satisfy both Part 2 and Part 4 MOC requirements, as well as MOC users’ reviews, would be helpful in completing their MOC requirements.

• Nearly three-fourths of pediatricians (73%) say more choices to satisfy part 4 of the MOC requirement would be “moderately” or “very” helpful, and 57% say more choices to satisfy Part 2 would be moderately or very helpful.
• Sixty percent of pediatricians say ratings and reviews from pediatricians who have used MOC activities to aid in choosing MOC activities would be “moderately” or “very” helpful.