

**Resolution 19-104**  
**FMA Endorsement of ABMS Vision for the Future Commission Final Report**  
Florida Academy of Family Physicians

1 Whereas, the American Board of Medical Specialties' (ABMS) *Vision for the Future* Final Report  
2 recommends that the summative decision regarding a diplomat's Continued Board Certification should  
3 be based on "aggregated data from formative assessments combined with other data related to  
4 professional standing, continuing professional development, and activities that advance practice to  
5 improve care;" and  
6

7 Whereas, the first ABMS Vision for the Future's Short-Term and Intermediate Recommendation is  
8 "Continuing certification must change to incorporate longitudinal and other innovative formative  
9 assessment strategies that support learning, identify knowledge and skills gaps, and help diplomates  
10 stay current; and  
11

12 Whereas, the ABMS Vision Final Report makes the following point explicitly "The Commission  
13 recommends that the ABMS Boards must offer alternatives to burdensome highly secure, point-in-time  
14 examinations or assessments of knowledge, and they must no longer use a single point-in-time  
15 examination or a series of single point-in-time assessments as the sole method to determine  
16 certification status. The Commission recommends the ABMS Boards move quickly to formative  
17 assessment formats that are not characterized by high-stakes summative outcomes (pass/fail), specified  
18 timeframes for high-stakes assessment, or require burdensome testing formats (such as testing centers  
19 or remote proctoring) that are inconsistent with the desired goals for continuing certification – support  
20 learning; identify knowledge and skills gaps; and help diplomates stay current;" and  
21

22 Whereas, in the ABMS Board of Director's response to the Vision for the Future Commission's  
23 recommendations stated the necessary first steps be "Agreement of all 24 ABMS Member Boards to  
24 commit to longitudinal or other formative assessment strategies and offer alternatives to the highly-  
25 secure, point-in-time examinations of knowledge," and furthermore "Commitment by ABMS to develop  
26 new, integrated standards for continuing certification programs by 2020. The standards will address the  
27 Commission recommendations for flexibility in knowledge assessment and advancing practice, feedback  
28 to diplomates and consistency;" and  
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30 Whereas, an ABMS subsidiary board, the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM), claims the newly  
31 released ABFM Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (FMCLA) is consistent with the  
32 ABMS Vision recommendation despite the fact that the ABFM website states "FMCLA is designed to  
33 assess Diplomates in a comparable way to the 10-year examination" and per the ABFM FMCLA  
34 Information Booklet, "Those physicians whose performance falls below the minimum passing standard  
35 after completing the longitudinal assessment will be required to take the Family Medicine Certification  
36 Examination at a secure proctored test center in their fifth year (2023);" and  
37

38 Whereas, the ABFM's response provides a clear example of how ABMS subsidiary boards are reluctant  
39 to move away from the past high-stake assessment process and forward toward the formative processes  
40 recommended by the ABMS Vision recommendation; therefore, be it  
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42 RESOLVED, The FMA send a letter to the ABMS by August 31, 2019, urging it, and its subsidiary boards,  
43 to move quickly to:

- 44 • implement the specifics and the spirit of the ABMS *Vision for the Future* Final Report regarding  
45 Assessment Recommendation which states “Continuing certification must change to incorporate  
46 longitudinal and other innovative formative assessment strategies that support learning, identify  
47 knowledge and skills gaps, and help diplomates stay current. The ABMS Boards must offer an  
48 alternative to burdensome highly-secure, point-in-time examinations of knowledge.”
- 49 • abandon Continued Certification processes characterized by high-stakes summative outcomes  
50 (pass/fail examinations), specified timeframes for high-stakes assessment, or require  
51 burdensome testing formats (such as testing centers or remote proctoring) that are inconsistent  
52 with the desired goals for continuing certification,
- 53 • develop innovative formative Continued Certification processes grounded in adult learning  
54 principles (e.g. frequent, spaced learning with timely feedback; repeated for reinforcement; gap  
55 analysis to aid focus) and support diplomates in their commitment to continuing professional  
56 development aimed at keeping current and improving patient care, and be it further  
57

58 RESOLVED, That the FMA submit a resolution at the 2019 AMA Interim Meeting requesting the AMA to  
59 send a similar letter to the ABMS by November 30, 2019.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
15 staff hours	\$1,480	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$1,480	\$0 added to the operating budget

*Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.*

Reference Committee: I – Health, Education & Public Policy