



CertLink®

Longitudinal Assessment

August 2019

On February 2, 2018, ABMGG launched the longitudinal assessment pilot program, CertLink®, in partnership with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The goal was to evaluate both its effectiveness as a replacement for the 10-year, Continuing Certification (MOC) high-stakes examination (Part III) for assessing knowledge, skills and judgment, and, in response to diplomate feedback, as a way to make continuing certification more meaningful and relevant. The online program, supported by adult learning theory, allows for longitudinal assessment including repeated exposure to relevant information with immediate feedback as a way to learn and retain information. It encourages continuous professional development that is flexible and more relevant to the needs of our diplomates while meeting the public expectation that assessment of a medical practitioner's knowledge should be ongoing.

ABMGG's CertLink pilot program has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from our diplomates. In collaboration with other ABMS-member boards participating in similar pilot programs, it has been shown to be a valid assessment for formative learning as well as for making summative decisions about medical knowledge, judgment, and skills. Much of this success is due to the feedback and participation from our diplomates.

Based on the acceptance and success of the CertLink pilot program, ABMGG will be replacing the high-stakes examination with the CertLink longitudinal assessment, effective in 2020. We will continue to add new opportunities through this platform, including some article-based review and assessment. CertLink will post specialty-based salient articles similar to current ABMGG literature review modules, followed by a set of CertLink questions on these articles. This will transition to fulfill the life-long learning activities (Part II) once incorporated into the platform. ABMGG also continues to partner with the ACMG and other genetics societies to optimize content and is working to provide CME credit for CertLink participation in the near future.

All diplomates participating in the ABMGG continuing certification program will be enrolled in CertLink beginning in 2020. We will continue to communicate information to diplomates for a smooth transition. Please feel free to contact the ABMGG office or visit the ABMGG website (www.abmgg.org) for more information. We look forward to ongoing input from our diplomates.

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