Maintenance of Certification Program Completion Rates (February 2017)

From 1990 through 2005, 98,660\(^{1,2}\) physicians attained time-limited certification in internal medicine. Many from this group pursued subspecialty training and eventual subspecialty certification. Overall, 89,464 (91\%) of that group enrolled in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. To date, 80,324 (90\%) of those who enrolled in MOC completed the program in internal medicine or a subspecialty.

The figure below presents the rate at which these subspecialty cohorts (with time limited certification) completed the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. The figure also presents the rate at which those within each subspecialty cohort (with time limited certification also in internal medicine) completed the internal medicine MOC program.

These data only include physicians whose certificate expiration date has passed. Specifically, only those certified in a subspecialty in 1990 through 2005 are included in this figure. Physicians with suspended or revoked certification as well as those known to be deceased or retired have been excluded. Finally, because time limited certification in internal medicine was instituted in 1990 and certification in a subspecialty is only possible after certification in internal medicine, the internal medicine cohort for each discipline is a subset of the subspecialty cohort.
1. Excludes: revoked and suspended certificates, deceased and retired diplomates, diplomates 90 years or older
2. Numbers of internists have been adjusted based on findings that about 10% of internists (Annals paper) not pursuing subspecialty training leave internal medicine.
3. Includes only formally trained candidates. In the initial years of a new certification program, a practice admission pathway is available to those practicing in the field prior to the availability of certification.