



American Academy of Sleep Medicine

July 10, 2015

Lee Berkowitz, MD, ABIM Council Chair
American Board of Internal Medicine
510 Walnut Street
Suite 1700

Philadelphia PA 19106-3699

SENT BY EMAIL TO: Ms. Anamika Gavhane - AGavhane@abim.org

OFFICERS

Nathaniel Watson, MD, MS
President

Ronald Chervin, MD, MS
President-Elect

Timothy Morgenthaler, MD
Past President

Kelly Carden, MD
Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Douglas Kirsch, MD

David Kristo, MD

Raman Malhotra, MD

Jennifer Martin, PhD

Kannan Ramar, MD

Ilene Rosen, MD

Terri Weaver, PhD, RN

Merrill Wise, MD

Jerome A. Barrett
Executive Director

Dear Dr. Berkowitz:

On behalf of the board of directors of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), I thank you for your June 30 letter informing us of the unanimous decision by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Council to discontinue the requirement to maintain underlying certification to remain certified in sleep medicine or another subspecialty of internal medicine.

The AASM leadership is grateful to have had the prior opportunity to provide input supporting the proposed changes, and we are appreciative of your consideration of the feedback you received from our organization and other stakeholders. We recently communicated your decision to our membership, and the news has been well-received by our members who are part of the internal medicine community. It is our hope that the ABIM's action will set a precedent that will be followed by the other member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) that offer subspecialty certification in sleep medicine.

The AASM shares your interest in improving the relevancy and usefulness of Maintenance of Certification (MOC), and we look forward to additional opportunities to provide feedback as a regular participant on the ABIM's Liaison Committee on Certification and Recertification (LCCR).

Sincerely,

Nathaniel F. Watson, MD, MSc
President

cc: Jerome Barrett
Timothy I. Morgenthaler, MD