

1 [BOR Approved: November 16, 2014]

2 **ACP Policy Statement Concerning MOC as a Prerequisite for Licensure and Credentialing (2014)**

3 The American College of Physicians (ACP), the national organization for internal medicine
4 specialists and subspecialists, has a stated mission "to enhance the quality and effectiveness of
5 health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine." In
6 supporting this mission, ACP recognizes the importance of certification and the professional
7 responsibility of physicians for maintaining competence and for continuous professional
8 development throughout their career.

9 ACP encourages participation in the American Board of Internal Medicine's Maintenance of
10 Certification (MOC) program. Participation in MOC provides evidence of quality and
11 commitment to continuous professional development, but it is not the only way to
12 demonstrate these qualities. Consequently, ACP does not support using participation in MOC as
13 an absolute prerequisite for state licensure, hospital credentialing, or insurer credentialing.
14 Instead, decisions about licensure and credentialing should be based on the physician's
15 performance in his or her practice setting and a broader set of criteria for assessing
16 competence, professionalism, commitment to continuous professional development, and
17 quality of care provided. By understanding that a wide variety of attributes contribute to a
18 physician's competence and quality of care, ACP stresses that the physician's demonstrated
19 performance for providing high quality, compassionate care and his or her commitment to
20 continuous professional development should be the primary determinants for licensure and
21 credentialing.

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