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## NBPAS Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2019

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### ADVOCACY NEWS

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#### NBPAS responds to ABMS Vision Commission Report

As many of you are aware, in response to a continued groundswell of MOC criticism, the ABMS formed an independent "Vision Commission" on MOC, designed to "reimagine a system of continuing certification." Although led by ABMS board members, many of the 27 commission members are not directly associated with ABMS. After several meetings, and 21 hours of testimony, on December 11<sup>th</sup> the Commission released its Draft Report and has requested public comment by January 15, 2019. Through testimony from numerous stakeholders, including alternative certification organizations and representatives of the public, the draft report contains a fairly comprehensive and accurate summary of many controversial MOC issues. The report's findings validate many of the concerns raised by physicians over the past four years.

After a detailed review of the 96 page report, and in response to the Commission's request for public comment, NBPAS created a "petition-like" comment that, in three 3 weeks, was signed by over 20,000 physicians. To read and sign the prepared response to NBPAS Vision Commission Report - <https://nbpas.org/respond-to-vision-commission-onerous-moc-components/>.

To watch ZDogg interview Dr. Paul Teirstein about the Vision Commission Report: <https://nbpas.org/zdoggm-interview-dr-teirstein-abms-vision-commission-moc-report/>

Read a Medscape article on the Vision Commission Report:

<https://nbpas.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/New-Commission-Report-Is-Tough-on-MOC.pdf>

#### Class-action suit filed against ABIM over MOC

On December 6, 2018, a group of internists filed a law suit, in Pennsylvania district court, against the American Board of Internal Medicine over its maintenance of certification (MOC) process. The lawsuit alleges that ABIM is monopolizing the MOC market. The four plaintiff-physicians are asking a judge to find ABIM in violation of federal antitrust law and to bar the board from continuing its MOC process. The suit is filed as a class action on behalf of all internists and subspecialists required by ABIM to purchase MOC to maintain their ABIM certifications. The plaintiffs seek damages and injunctive relief, plus lawsuit and attorney costs arising from ABIM's alleged antitrust violations.

NBPAS is following this lawsuit very closely and will continue to update you on the progress.

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## NBPAS PROGRESS

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NBPAS has now grown to over **7,500 diplomates** and there are **105 hospitals** nationwide that recognize and accept NBPAS board certification. This is a great improvement from last year, and our numbers keep growing thanks to all of you!

Please help us in continuing to spread the word – tell your colleagues about NBPAS, present your Medical Executive Committees (MEC) with our prepared materials asking your hospitals to accept NBPAS as an alternative board certification – NBPAS is stronger and makes a bigger impact as a collaborative effort. And NBPAS greatly appreciates all of your help!

Visit our website's [Advocacy Center](#) to access the prepared materials mentioned above.

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## NBPAS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### New NBPAS Website to be released this Spring

We are updating our website! We have been working hard to make our website more user-friendly and provide as much information to you as possible. New updates will include:

- Easier navigation
- Improved application process
- A NEW Member Portal for diplomates
  - check the status of your application/certification
  - update your information
  - order additional certificates
  - and more!
- A fresh, easy to find information, look and feel!

### Renewal Reminder for Diplomates

Are you NBPAS board certified and need to know when to renew?

You can check your certificate (digital or printed) or visit [nbpas.org/verify-certification/](https://nbpas.org/verify-certification/) to see what date your NBPAS board certification is valid through. You will also receive an email from us about three months prior to your expiration date to remind you about renewal. To renew, simply visit [nbpas.org/apply-or-renew/](https://nbpas.org/apply-or-renew/) to log in, submit the renewal application, fee, and evidence of CME hours. We will contact you if we need anything more, if not, you will receive confirmation of your renewal within 2 weeks.

If you have any questions, please review our Criteria page at [nbpas.org/criteria/](https://nbpas.org/criteria/) and check our FAQ's at [nbpas.org/faqs/](https://nbpas.org/faqs/). You can also email us at [info@nbpas.org](mailto:info@nbpas.org), or call (888) 861-4448.

### New "Non-Operative Pathway" for surgical specialties

Several requests have been received lately for NBPAS to offer an alternative pathway for physicians certified in surgical specialties who no longer hold active surgical privileges. After research and discussion, NBPAS will now be offering a "Non-Operative Pathway" for these physicians.

**To qualify:** Physicians with surgical specialties who are no longer surgically active (due to reasons including no hospital privileges, research, academic administration, etc.) will be required to attest on their application to no longer holding active surgical privileges. All other NBPAS certification requirements will still need to be met. NBPAS certification will include the status of "Non-Operative Pathway" on the

certificate and via the NBPAS website's Verify Certification page.

This "Non-Operative Pathway" option will be available with the release of our new website, in the coming weeks!

## Join NBPAS!

If you signed up for the NBPAS Newsletter to stay informed and have not yet joined NBPAS, please consider applying online at [nbpas.org/apply-or-renew/](https://nbpas.org/apply-or-renew/).

If you have any questions or want more information, contact us at [info@nbpas.org](mailto:info@nbpas.org).

## Tell Us!

What would you like to see in these newsletters? How are we doing? Any suggestions?

Email us at [info@nbpas.org](mailto:info@nbpas.org) with your feedback.



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NBPAS Website

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