



**ABMS to publicly report MOC status of diplomates;  
ABR to provide online clarification for lifetime certificate holders**

Beginning August 1, 2012, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) will begin reporting on its public website, [www.certificationmatters.org](http://www.certificationmatters.org), whether or not diplomates certified by any of the 24 ABMS Member Boards are meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. This includes ABR board-certified diagnostic radiologists, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists. This reporting standard was implemented by seven ABMS Member Boards in October 2011.

Concerning the ABMS move, President and CEO Kevin Weiss offered the following: “We’re honoring our pledge of increased transparency to the public by providing easy access to important information about individual physicians. The ABMS MOC program is being incorporated into the credentialing process and is recognized as an important quality marker by insurers, hospitals, quality and credentialing organizations, the federal government, and the public.”

**While complying with the new ABMS standard, the ABR is determined to make it perfectly clear to anyone researching the certification status of its diplomates online that those certified before the MOC program started are NOT required to participate in MOC.**

The ABMS decided to report only two statuses (meeting requirements of MOC and not meeting requirements of MOC), and to deal with other statuses only by providing a link to each Member Board's website. The ABR realized the confusion this would cause and subsequently took two actions to mitigate the impact on ABR diplomates: 1) requested and received an ABMS deferral for one year to prepare for and communicate the reporting system to ABR diplomates (from August 2011 to August 2012), and 2) accelerated the planned introduction of ABR website information on diplomate statuses. While a launch of the ABR's online verification system was originally scheduled for 2013, the date was moved to August 1, 2012, coinciding with the launch of the ABMS reporting system so it would be immediately available to provide clarifying information for all ABR diplomates.

***Here is how the public reporting will work:***

ABR diplomates enrolled in MOC and meeting MOC requirements will be able to direct individuals and organizations to the ABMS website as proof of their MOC status.

The ABR website will contain individual information for each diplomate, clearly stating the status of lifetime-certified individuals as "certified, not required to participate in MOC." Website users will be instructed to access the ABR's new database or contact the ABR directly for information regarding whether a specific physician is required to participate in MOC. This will enable the ABR to clearly explain to all interested parties that physicians with lifetime certification status need not “meet the requirements” of MOC to retain their valid ABR certification. This information cannot be displayed on the ABMS website because of limitations placed by the ABMS.

This initiative reflects ABR's vigorous efforts on behalf of its diplomates to render the mandated ABMS reporting process clear, fair and consistent with our commitment to those with ABR lifetime certifications.