



Update: MOC Pilot on Focused Practice Recognition in Cardiac CT

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At its March 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C., the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors and Assembly representatives approved an American Board of Radiology (ABR) proposal to develop a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) demonstration pilot program on focused practice recognition in cardiac computed tomography (FP-CCT). The program is nearing the end of its pre-implementation year, and the ABR plans to begin accepting applications on or before April 1, 2012.

As an innovative pilot program, focused practice recognition in MOC offers unique value previously unavailable through conventional ABMS pathways to certification and subspecialty certification. It is designed for physicians who maintain a significant practice emphasis in a portion of the practice domain of the parent discipline (in this case, cardiac CT is an area of emphasis within diagnostic radiology) and who further engage in a program of continuous professional development reflecting that concentration and leading to measurable practice proficiencies.

Through focused practice recognition in MOC, these physicians can demonstrate their acquired knowledge and skills and can be appropriately recognized by patients, credentialers, peers, referring physicians, and other stakeholders for having done so. In the future, a lookup of an FP-CCT diplomate on the ABMS website and the ABR website will yield MOC certification status and a statement that the candidate has Focused Practice Recognition in Cardiac CT.

Requirements

Candidates for admission to the program must have primary certification in diagnostic radiology from the ABR and be current and active participants in the ABR MOC program. Other qualifications include successful completion of at least one year of practice following the end of diagnostic radiology residency training.

For initial entry into the program, ABR requires that diplomates receive a passing score on a secure, proctored examination. Through a unique and valuable arrangement with the American College of Radiology (ACR), ABR will accept only ACR's Cardiac CT Advanced Proficiency examination as this initial entry requirement into the Focused Practice Recognition Pilot Program. Examinees are provided dedicated workstations for both knowledge assessment and full diagnostic CT case datasets that simulate clinical practice. This rigorous exam is the first of its kind to include both a knowledge-based, multiple-choice component and a practical component that allows candidates to conduct actual cardiac CT case assessments in an entirely computer-based format.

Additional requirements for completion of the MOC Pilot Program on Focused Practice Recognition in Cardiac CT include:

- Completion of 150 gated, contrast-enhanced cardiac CT studies within the last three years, with primary responsibility for the protocol and interpretation of at least 75 of these studies
- Completion of a minimum of four ABR-qualified Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) in cardiac CT and at least 50 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™ in cardiac CT
- Completion of a minimum of one Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) project in cardiac CT

After attaining the FP-CCT recognition, which may occur at any time during the diplomate's MOC cycle, the diplomate must complete the already-established MOC 10-year cycle, with 20 percent of remaining CME and SAMs requirements taken in cardiac CT. An annual case requirement must also be met.

Look for more information on the ABR Website in March 2012. You may also send an email to fprcct@theabr.org.