



Meeting MOC Requirements: ABMS to Publicly Report Status of all Board-Certified Physicians

Beginning August 1, 2012, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) will report on its public website, www.certificationmatters.org, whether or not ABR board-certified diagnostic radiologists, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists are meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. The new ABMS public reporting standard was implemented by seven ABMS Member Boards in October 2011. By August 2012, the ABMS will serve as the central repository for the MOC status of diplomates from all 24 ABMS Member Boards, including the ABR.

ABR diplomates who are enrolled in MOC and meeting MOC requirements will be able to direct individuals and organizations to the ABMS website as proof of their participation. The ABMS reporting system is comparable to other public reporting tools, such as Physician Compare and Hospital Compare, which are provided by the federal government (see www.healthcare.gov/compare). The MOC status of board-certified physicians will also be displayed by ABMS licensees and official display agents, i.e., primary source credentials verification organizations.

The ABMS Board of Directors determined that results of researching a physician's status on the ABMS public website would show the name of the physician, the physician's education and location, the name of the Member Board(s) that certifies the physician, and a binary "yes" or "no" response to the question of whether the physician is meeting the MOC requirement of that Member Board(s). ABMS also decided that any further clarification of a diplomate's status would be via a link to the website of the diplomates's certifying Board(s).

For some ABMS Member Boards, including the ABR, diplomates who were certified before the MOC program was established are not required to participate in MOC in order to remain certified. However, as ABMS reporting is directed toward MOC participation rather than certification status, a lifetime-certified diplomate who chooses not to participate in MOC will be listed on the ABMS website as not meeting MOC requirements. Conversely, a lifetime-certified diplomate who voluntarily participates in MOC and is meeting requirements will be listed as such.

Users will be able to click on a link to the ABR's website for an explanation of lifetime certification status and also will be directed to an ABR searchable database of individual diplomates. For lifetime certified diplomates, the ABR database will clearly state that they are "not required to participate in MOC."

The current statement on the ABMS website reads as follows:

For some ABMS Member Boards, physicians who achieved Board Certification before those Boards established their MOC programs are not required to participate in MOC. To obtain information regarding whether a specific physician is required to participate in MOC please

contact the pertinent ABMS Member Board: <http://www.CertificationMatters.org/abms-member-boards.aspx>.

The seven ABMS Member Boards that have already implemented the ABMS public reporting standard include the American Boards of Dermatology, Family Medicine, Nuclear Medicine, Otolaryngology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Plastic Surgery, and Surgery. To view how the new reporting system appears on the ABMS site, go to www.certificationmatters.org and follow the steps provided to search for a physician in one of these seven specialty areas.