Appendix A

INSTITUTIONAL SPONSOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Standards

- The program standards are not linked to any specific QI model (e.g., Six Sigma, Breakthrough Series); however, the program requires that QI projects apply standard, accepted improvement methodologies.

- In any description of the program, the sponsor may not state or imply that the participating board(s) has approved or endorsed any project unless the board(s) has done so in writing.

- The sponsor may establish its own fee structure (if applicable) for diplomates participating in its approved projects; however, the ABR will not reimburse or credit fees charged by the sponsor.

- The sponsor must have a structured mechanism for evaluating QI projects against the standards of this program and for approving those projects that meet the standards. QI projects may be approved prospectively (if the design of the project is complete), while ongoing, or retrospectively (if the project was completed within the previous 12 months). In this early stage of program development, two options for satisfying this standard are foreseen: 1) an entirely internal project review and approval mechanism, and 2) arrangement for ongoing external third-party review by a quality improvement organization (QIO) or QIO-like group, with direct reporting as follows: QIO-to-ABMS Member Board (in this case, ABR). As of this writing, ABMS is taking steps to make the latter option available to sponsoring institutions in early 2011.

- The sponsor must establish a mechanism for programmatic evaluation by participants.

Interested prospective sponsors of this MOC Part IV Institutional Sponsor Approval Program are asked to complete an application (see section below on Program Sponsors and Responsibilities). Additionally, applications must include representative QI projects. All applications from interested institutions are reviewed by an ABR program review committee.