American Roentgen Ray Society
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ABR Continuous Certification
MOC Program & Activities

James Borgstede, MD, FACR
President, American Board of Radiology
Disclosure

- None
OBJECTIVES

- Review the basics of Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
- Explain continuous certification
- Explain new opportunities in MOC
Disclaimer

- This material is dynamic and may change to be consistent with American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements.
My thanks to Mickey Guiberteau, Chair, ABR Maintenance Of Certification Committee for the majority of this material
What physicians knew (a test)

1934

What physicians know (recert)

1999 - 2000

What Physicians Do! (MOC)

2014
MOC Components - A Review

Part I: Professional Standing
State Medical Licensure

• Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
  Category 1 CME and Self Assessment Modules (SAMs)

Part III: Cognitive Expertise
Proctored, secure exam

Part IV: Practice Performance
Practice Quality Improvement (PQI)
The ABR MOC program Part 4 requires a practice quality improvement (PQI) project

Participation in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRS)

The Maintenance of Certification Incentive Program operated by the ABR for CMS (MOC:PQRS)

These are three separate programs:

- PQI as part of ABR MOC separate from $$
- PQRS (CMS 0.5% bonus on total estimated Medicare B charges 2014)
- If PQRS then opportunity to participate in MOC:PQRS (CMS for an additional $ 0.5% in 2014)
- Turns to a CMS penalty of 1.5% in 2015 and 2% in 2016
ABR Continuous Certification Basics

- It is **not** an “MOC Replacement”
- It **does** modify the current MOC Structure
- **Major** MOC Requirements are **UNCHANGED**
  - MOC exam requirement is still on a q. 10-year basis
  - Exam may still be taken at anytime
- **Fees are **UNCHANGED**
- **Every Diplomate participating in MOC has been transitioned to Continuous Certification as of January 1, 2013**
Continuous Certification
MOC is a process that demonstrates to the public that individual diplomates of the ABR maintain the competencies necessary to provide quality patient care.

Continuous Certification is a new MOC structure that ensures an assessment of ongoing physician performance in MOC at reasonable intervals (Annually).
ABR
Continuous Certification

WHY? - Certificate Change

- Beginning in 2012 and thereafter -
  - ALL ABR certificates have NO “valid through” dates (No “end” dates)
  - ALL ABR certificates will maintain validity contingent on a diplomate’s “meeting the requirements” of MOC
- Allows a consistent annual certificate “renewal” and Public Reporting of MOC/Certificate Status.
ABR Continuous Certification

KEY POINTS

• What constitutes “Meeting Requirements”?
  • **Annual** proof of a valid, unrestricted State License
  • **Annual** Fee Payment
  • **Annual** Rolling 3-yr look-back for
    • 75 CME Credits total over previous 3 years
    • At least 1/3 of CME must be Self-Assessment
    • 1 completed PQI project in previous 3 years
    • **Annual** 10-year Look-back for Any ABR Exam in the previous 10 years
ABR Continuous Certification
Annual Look-backs

- Occur annually on MARCH 15
- Began in March 2013
- Reference the previous calendar year(s)
- To allow comfortable transition, the annual lookbacks in 2013, 2014 & 2015 will review only,
  - Part 1: LICENSURE (Valid State License)
  - Part 3: EXAMINATION (Passed in last 10 years)
    - (Not to apply to Lifetime Certificates)
- First full look back in 2016
ABR Continuous Certification

Advantages

• More difficult to get behind and fall into non-compliance v. 10 year cycle
• Built-in “catch-up” period of one year if deficiencies in an annual look-back
• No limit to number of CME or SAM credits earned/year which satisfy a 3-year average
• Diplomates with two or more certificates can synchronize MOC cycles (merge into a single process)
MOC:

Continuous Certification:
Frequently Asked Questions
Q. How does this affect my current certificate?

A. Diplomates with certificate(s) with an end date

– Will receive a new certificate, if they are meeting the requirements of MOC at the end date on their certificate. New Certificate is valid contingent on “Meeting Requirements” of MOC
ABR Continuous Certification

Q. How does this affect my current certificate?

A. Lifetime certified diplomates who are voluntarily enrolled in MOC
   – Will receive a new certificate, if they are “meeting the requirements” of MOC at the first full look-back on March 15th of the fourth full calendar year after MOC enrollment
   – The new certificate will be effective March 16th and will be valid “contingent of meeting requirements” of MOC
   – Their underlying original lifetime certificate remains valid
Q. What happens if an annual look-back finds that I am not meeting MOC requirements?

A: 1. You have one year to make up the deficiency.
   2. You will be reported as “Certified, not meeting requirements” during that calendar year.
   3. If the deficiencies are not remediated, you will be reported as “not certified” after that year.
Q. What happens if I don’t make up my deficiencies and become “not certified” and wish to regain my “certified” status?

A: 1. You may enter the “MOC Re-Entry” Process
2. During one Calendar Year you must complete:
   a. ALL of the MOC requirements needed for a “full” 3-year lookback.
   b. Take and Pass an MOC Exam, if none passed in the past 10 years
ABR MOC - 2013 Changes

1) Part 2: Self-Assessment CME Credits
2) Part 3: MOC Examination Structure
MOC:

Broadening of Opportunities for Self-Assessment CME
ABR MOC
Part 2: Self-Assessment Credits

- Self-Assessment CME requirement (JAN 2013)
  - 75 Category 1 CME credits every 3 years,
  - 25 of which must be self-assessment credit

⚠️ Requirement is for **CREDITS**

**NOT** for numbers of SAMs (Modules)
ABR MOC - Part 2

What is Self-Assessment CME?

• Category 1 CME with a Self-Assessment component from TWO (2) primary sources:

1. ABR-qualified Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs)
2. Certain forms of AMA PRA Category 1 CME (since July 1, 2011)
ABR MOC - Earning SA-CME Credits
AMAPRA Category 1 CME

• Beginning July 1, 2013 - ALL enduring and peer-reviewed journal-based AMA PRA Category 1 CME is recognized by ABR for fulfilling the Continuous Certification SA-CME requirement

• For these activities the AMA requires:
  – Self-assessment component (post-test)
  – Establish a minimum performance level to receive CME credits

• Includes only Enduring and Journal-based CME:
  – print, audio, video and Internet materials
  – Monographs, CD-ROMs, DVDs, archived webinars and other web-based activities

• NOT Include “Live” activities which still require ABR SAMs
ABR MOC

Part 3: Examination

• MOC Exam
  – Practice Profiled (Diplomate selects categories)
  – NOT based on your reported SA Activities (SAMs)
  – Criterion-based exam (no curve, no failure quota)

3 Modules of 60 image-based questions
  • Module levels are basic and advanced
  • If 2 or more in one category, only the first is basic.
  • Modules available in 11 subspecialties
    • “General Radiology” added in 2014
  – NIS module, based on study guide
MOC GROUP PRACTICE

MOC ADMINISTRATION

• Created in response to diplomates’ requests for
  – A *Structure* for authorized Group Administrators to access a diplomate’s ABR PDB to enter MOC data
  – An *Online Tool* for Group Administrators to use

• Also allows group administrators to
  – Track progress of individual members in MOC
  – Issue reminders to those lagging in meeting milestones

• Diplomates are notified by ABR of My ABR changes made on their behalf
MOC GROUP PRACTICE MOC
Online ADMINISTRATIVE TOOL

• Optional Program
• Group Practice Administrator may access and enter information on each diplomate’s MyABR Account
• Easy tracking of each Diplomate’s MOC progress
• Diplomate Requirements
  – each diplomate must give permission (opt-in)
  – once-a-year diplomate online verification
• Fully Beta Tested with large Practices/Institutions
• Launched 2014
MOC

WHOLE PRACTICE PARTICIPATION DISCOUNT

- **Group Definition**
  - 2 or more Radiologists, Radiation Oncologists, or Medical Physicists

- **Requirements**
  - All members of the group must participate in MOC
    - Including Lifetime Certificate Holders
    - Annual Fees must be paid in aggregate (re-thinking)
    - Must Use Online Group Practice Administrative Tool

- **Discount:** 10% of the Total Fees Due

- **Launch:** 2014
Institutional MOC

- Will likely be forthcoming to your institution

- All ABMS boards will delegate their MOC part 4 approval to an institutional quality review board (QRB) by ~2014

- ABMS will periodically audit the institutional QRB

- Will improve the magnitude and outcome of part 4 projects.

- More facile for diplomates.

- A win-win
ABR Goal For MOC

- Enhancement of the value of MOC for radiologist performance improvement while simultaneously reducing the burden on practicing radiologists.

- Align MOC requirements and incentives with other requirements and incentives in the practice lives of radiologists, thereby eliminating redundant efforts and minimizing busy work.
Future relationships between CMS, ABMS, ABR and these programs

• ABR and ABMS would like MOC to be accepted for:
  • Centers for Medicare and Medicaid PQRS requirements
  • And the CMS MOC incentive bonus.
  • And as a CMS value based payment modifier (value modifier) with the use of registries for part 4
  • And Maintenance of Licensure

• ABR and ABMS want “one stop shopping” for all of these programs and projects
• These potential relationships are works in progress
Milton J. Guiberteau, MD, Chair
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