

ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story



Christopher J. Garrison, MD, MBA Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

“Physicians as a group must take the lead in the improvement of healthcare. We have a duty to the patients we see to deliver increasingly better care and demonstrate this improvement to the many stakeholders in healthcare.”

Dr. Garrison sees the much publicized quality reports from the Institute of Medicine as a call for improvement across all dimensions of healthcare delivery, including safety, timeliness, efficiency, efficacy, equity and patient-centered care. “To impact these dimensions of healthcare, the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process must continue and evolve. Professional standing and traditional continuing medical education will no longer suffice in isolation as methods of ensuring a high level of performance among physicians..” he explained.

An associate MOC committee member for the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Garrison speaks frequently about the necessity and benefits of MOC. He believes the most important requirement of the process is a self-selected, real-world project which crystallizes the notion that physicians can contribute to the improvement of local processes of care that benefit patients, save money and reduce waste. “Because physicians contribute to healthcare in a variety of ways, from solo practice in the office setting to medical directors of large integrated institutions, allowing physicians to facilitate improvement in their existing settings increases the impact of the MOC requirement on the healthcare industry in general.”

Now in his third year of the ten-year cycle for the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Garrison regularly participates in quality improvement activities within his individual practice and within the Seton Family of Hospitals in Austin, Texas. He is also beginning the process of participating in the Self-Assessment portion of the MOC requirements by taking the examinations offered by the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Garrison holds general board certification in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He has been in practice for 14 years. Dr. Garrison is currently Program Director and Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for the Seton Brain and Spine Institute in Austin, Texas. He earned his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.



**American Board
of Medical Specialties**

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties
222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
T: (312) 436-2600
F: (312) 436-2700

www.abms.org

ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (MOC) is a professional development program for physicians who are certified by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards. The MOC program standards are set by ABMS and independently implemented by the Member Boards. MOC promotes continuous lifelong learning and self assessment to better meet patient, provider and payer expectations for quality care.

© 2010 American Board of Medical Specialties. All rights reserved. The American Board of Medical Specialties, ABMS, the ABMS logo, Higher standards. Better care, ABMS Maintenance of Certification, ABMS MOC and the ABMS Maintenance of Certification logo are registered trademarks of the American Board of Medical Specialties.