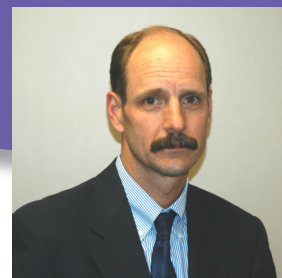




ABMS Maintenance of Certification®

# ABMS Maintenance of Certification

## One Specialist's Story



### Keith E. Brandt, MD Diplomate, American Board of Plastic Surgery and American Board of Surgery

*"It's absolutely critical that the specialty boards continue to evolve Maintenance of Certification because the specialists understand the uniqueness of their area of medicine. It should not fall into anyone else's hands."*

Dr. Brandt views the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process as an answer to public outcry for reassured quality healthcare. "As specialists become more involved in MOC, they will understand its importance for affirming to our patients that we are up-to-date in our training, knowledge and skills," explained Dr. Brandt. "If state medical boards start accepting MOC as a requirement for licensure, then the ABMS boards have done physicians a huge favor by getting this process in place."

Now in his third year of the ten-year MOC cycle for the American Board of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Brandt has already submitted his credentialing information and completed the necessary continuing medical education. He has also finished the first round of self assessment which involved submitting ten consecutive cases of a particular procedure for inclusion in a national database maintained by the American Board of Plastic Surgery. The cases are compared against similar ones submitted by other surgeons. A report of this comparison is provided, allowing Dr. Brandt to identify the similarities and differences of his practice to that of his peers. After identifying areas for improvement, Dr. Brandt completed the required educational activities, such as journal article reviews and attending courses at national meetings, to update his knowledge. He has also initiated the MOC process with the American Board of Surgery.

"It's great to get feedback from an entity we trust," said Dr. Brandt. "These comparisons gave me a real-life picture of what is happening in the U.S. and helps me know whether or not I am in line with the way a procedure is done by others." This experience has helped Dr. Brandt fine tune areas of his practice and affirms that the gradual changes he has been making over the years are in the right direction. As the MOC program continues and more information is submitted to the database, Dr. Brandt is looking forward to mining the data to come up with strong recommendations for treating particular conditions or patient types.

*Dr. Brandt holds general certification in Plastic Surgery from the American Board of Plastic Surgery as well as general certification in Surgery and subspecialty certification in Surgery of the Hand from the American Board of Surgery. He has been in practice for 17 years and specializes in Reconstructive Microsurgery. Dr. Brandt is currently the William G. Hamm Professor and Program Director, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Brandt earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.*



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**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.**

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