



ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story

Marcos Montagnini, MD, FACP Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine

“While Maintenance of Certification is a time-intensive process and does require dedication – particularly in the time needed to prepare for the exam – it is very worthwhile and has really helped my practice.”

“Even though I’m required to engage in the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program in order to maintain my certification, I find the MOC process very useful,” explained Dr. Montagnini. “It is a way for me to update my knowledge and my practice has improved as a result.”

Dr. Montagnini was most impressed with the self-evaluation of medical knowledge modules which he says are very comprehensive and easy to use. He was able to pick and choose the modules that best met his needs. The scoring system allowed Dr. Montagnini to clearly see the areas where he needed to improve. Completing the modules also helped him earn continuing medical education (CME) credit.

Additionally, Dr. Montagnini used the ABIM’s Practice Improvement Module (PIM) for Osteoporosis to complete the practice improvement requirement of MOC. After ABIM reviewed the chart and survey data he submitted, Dr. Montagnini received recommendations for ways to improve his practice. He decided to focus on identifying patients at risk for falls to ensure that they receive preventive osteoporosis therapy. “Working with our pharmacist and nursing staff, we conducted a chart overview to assess if patients were receiving adequate calcium and vitamin D supplementation,” said Dr. Montagnini. “We found that a significant number of patients were not receiving appropriate osteoporosis prophylaxis therapy and began prescribing to those who met criteria.” His practice is now more vigilant about tracking both falls and prescribing osteoporosis therapy. A fall assessment protocol is also in place.

His experience with the PIM was so meaningful, that he plans to use it with the Fellows he teaches in the University of Michigan’s Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program, “It is the most systematic way for Fellows to achieve the quality improvement requirement.”

Dr. Montagnini holds general board certification in Internal Medicine and subspecialty certification in Geriatric Medicine from the American Board of Internal Medicine. He has been in practice for 11 years. Dr. Montagnini is on faculty at the University of Michigan Division of Geriatric Medicine. He is a staff physician at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System where he leads the Home Based Primary Care Program and the Palliative Care Program. He is the Director of the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at the University of Michigan. Dr. Montagnini earned his medical degree from Faculdade De Medicina Da Santa Casa de Sao Paulo, Brazil.



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