

# ABMS Maintenance of Certification *One Specialist's Story*



## Gary S. Clark, MD Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

*“Given the push for greater accountability, MOC will become a differential competitive advantage among physicians. Participation in it is a wise decision in anticipation of future expectations.”*

A lifetime certificate holder, Dr. Gary Clark said his major motivation to participate in MOC was to serve as a role model for his faculty. “I felt that successfully undergoing MOC would set a positive example and encourage my fellow lifetime certificate holder faculty to also participate, while maintaining credibility (“walking the walk”) with my faculty who are already active MOC participants, as well as our colleagues and patients.”

Dr. Clark found the process of preparation a significant further learning experience, and the exam to be both challenging and reassuring. “It certainly served to reinforce the importance of continuing medical education, in a much more real and relevant context. I now look at continuing medical education in a much broader perspective of consciously striving to stay current and competent in my clinical practice, rather than an administrative exercise to renew my certification.”

Dr. Clark notes that without the rigor of an MOC process to stimulate (and test) new knowledge acquisition, it is easy for a physician to get into a “comfort zone” with his or her practice, and not realize the continuing evolution of medical knowledge that could/should be incorporated into improving quality of patient care. Working on his practice improvement project for MOC, Dr. Clark observed being “surprised that by stepping back and analyzing my practice procedures, I was able to identify several opportunities to improve efficiency and productivity, as well as patient care outcomes.”

*Dr. Clark holds general board certification in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. His areas of expertise include amputee rehabilitation, geriatric rehabilitation, and stroke rehabilitation. He earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.*



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