



ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story

Eric A. Brandser, MD Diplomate, American Board of Radiology

“The Maintenance of Certification process acknowledges that I keep looking and I keep striving to learn more and do better so that each year I’m a better radiologist than I was the year before.”

Dr. Eric Brandser made a personal commitment to join Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for the American Board of Radiology in December 2008. Since then, he has convinced all the colleagues of his partnership practice to follow suit. Together, they intend to lead by example, with solid plans for measuring, analyzing, modifying, re-measuring, and assessing change within the practice.

Since there is no national data for benchmarking applications available to refer to, one of the first things Dr. Brandser’s group did was to build a data collection quality improvement software system which integrates with the way the group’s practitioners read x-rays. Each year, Brandser says the group interprets 600,000 exams. The database is an invaluable tool, allowing his group to mine data on an individual physician level, and giving feedback on any discrepant reports.

Dr. Brandser explained that the biggest change in practice for him will be to continue to collect quality improvement data on himself, which is now easier with their new software system. Participating in MOC encourages him to look at all areas of Radiology by seeking out continuing education that he might not ordinarily look at. “It already has had an immediate effect. I have re-learned things that I remembered from ten years ago and can see how it has changed, that’s pretty cool!”

Although, getting the first one percent of people involved may be difficult, especially for the lifetime certifiers, Dr. Brandser believes this will become a moot point as time-limited certificates and participation in MOC becomes the norm. “Once you get a couple of people involved to personally say ‘I learned something and I am going to do better for a patient because of the stuff I learned’ then more people will get on board.”

Dr. Brandser holds general certification in Diagnostic Radiology from the American Board of Radiology. He specializes in Musculoskeletal Radiology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine.



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