



# ABMS Maintenance of Certification

## One Specialist's Story

### Jamie L. Reedy, MD, MPH Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

*“Medicine is different now than it was 10 or 20 years ago. We have to be accountable for the health care we are providing.”*

“Ours is a profession where we are required to maintain our skills and if we cannot prove that we are maintaining our skills, then we should not be allowed to practice our profession,” says Dr. Jamie Reedy. “It is too dangerous in this day and age to fall behind on current medical knowledge.” That’s why she is so committed to the concept of Maintenance of Certification (MOC), selling its virtues to patients, colleagues, and the professional community.

“Patients put so much stock in what is reported in the national media that they don’t get the whole picture of what goes on behind the scenes,” she explains. In her experience it is clear that patients want their physicians to be current in their knowledge because they come to the office with “the latest” information they’ve found on the Internet, yet not realizing the process for how physicians are trained or how that training is maintained once they are out in practice.

When the MOC program for the American Board of Family Medicine was being created, Dr. Reedy worked with the board to help figure out the clinical issues which family doctors should focus on each year to update their knowledge. “We take care of so many patients with so many different issues that the activity modules from the board are invaluable for helping us stay on top of commonly seen diagnoses in practice.” Through the activity modules, Dr. Reedy continually learns something new or something that causes her to rethink the way she does things. She especially appreciates that the modules are updated regularly for ready reference.

Above all, Dr. Reedy believes service performance has to be measured in a very transparent way. The data need to be transmitted not just to other physicians, but also to patients, to health plans, and to external entities. “This will help patients make good choices for their health care.”

*Dr. Reedy holds general board certification in Family Medicine from the American Board of Family Medicine. Her clinical interest is in gynecology and pediatrics and she is very active in local legislative activities involving health care. Dr. Reedy earned her medical degree from University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and her Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.*



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