



# ABMS Maintenance of Certification

## One Specialist's Story

### Anita Mahajan, MD Diplomate, American Board of Radiology

*“Maintenance of Certification is an opportunity to show confidence in yourself and set an example for others.”*

Dr. Anita Mahajan views her board certification as a good foundation that ensures an appropriate level of care and practice principles, yet requires the extra efforts of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) to explore modern techniques and incorporate them for better patient care. “Board certification really is very important,” said Dr. Mahajan. “It’s a benchmark for yourself, it’s a benchmark for your peers and it’s a benchmark for your patients. But it’s a foundation. The American Board of Radiology MOC program encourages me to take an objective look at my daily activities and find better ways to treat patients.”

Through MOC, Dr. Mahajan focuses on continuing medical education activities involving clinical research to optimize patient care. She has incorporated activities into her routine as simple as keeping a log of things that should be performed on a daily or weekly basis, to attending meetings and reading journal articles, as well as reviewing practice guidelines and cases with peers. While the process may be more time consuming, she says it does allow for continuous maintenance of standards.

The process and standards are what Dr. Mahajan thinks patients should know more about to help increase their confidence in the care they receive. “Patients often come to see me with research from the Internet that I have to verify or explain. They are genuinely interested in my background and do ask about the medical school I attended and training programs I completed, and if I am up-to-date with my certification and re-certification. This is a major change in the typical discussions I have had with patients.”

As for her colleagues, Dr. Mahajan encourages them to start the process because she believes everyone will benefit in the long run.

*Dr. Mahajan holds general board certification in Radiation Oncology from the American Board of Radiology. Dr. Mahajan earned her medical degree from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine.*



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

*Higher standards. Better care.®*

American Board of Medical Specialties  
353 North Clark Street, Suite 1400  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
T: (312) 436-2600  
F: (312) 436-2700

[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)

ABMS Program for Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC®) is a professional development program for physicians who are certified by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards. Program standards are set by ABMS and independently implemented by the Member Boards. ABMS MOC promotes self assessment and continuous learning to better meet patient, provider, and payer expectations for quality care.

© 2009 American Board of Medical Specialties. All rights reserved. The American Board of Medical Specialties, ABMS, the ABMS logo, Higher standards. Better care, ABMS Maintenance of Certification, ABMS MOC and the ABMS Maintenance of Certification logo are registered trademarks of the American Board of Medical Specialties.