

ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story



Jeffery S. Johns, MD Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

“Maintenance of Certification is a train that is moving forward in the right direction, and it is time for everyone to get on board.”

Dr. Jeffery Johns admits that he initially felt Maintenance of Certification (MOC) was a rather unnecessary regulatory process. However, as he progresses through the requirements, he has grown to understand the diligence and planning behind MOC and sees great value in ensuring that board certification continues to hold true meaning to other professionals and the patients.

“Simply by asking myself and my administrative teams how we can improve what we’re doing, I have found value,” explained Dr. Johns. “Until processes are at least questioned and analyzed, the room for improvement might never become apparent.”

The continuous improvements are something that patients should also be aware of, according to Dr. Johns. He believes that a board certified physician who participates in and successfully completes this process is one who is committed to life long learning. “Medicine and medical practice continue to change and therefore this type of ongoing personal and professional development through MOC helps to ensure that physicians are qualified and equipped with up-to-date information and skills.”

Dr. Johns advises his peers to take a proactive approach as states and credentialing processes consider similar programs. He believes it is inevitable that physicians will be required to participate in MOC or something similar in order to continue practicing. “There are definite personal and professional benefits that are potentially missed if one waits until they are forced to act.”

Dr. Johns holds general board certification in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and subspecialty certification in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Johns earned his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine.



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