

ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story



Christopher J. Garrison, MD, MBA Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

“Physicians as a group must take the lead in the improvement of health care. We have a duty to the patients we see to deliver increasingly better care and demonstrate this improvement to the many stakeholders in health care.”

Dr. Christopher Garrison sees the much publicized quality reports from the Institute of Medicine and others as a call for improvement across all dimensions of health care delivery, including safety, timeliness, efficiency, efficacy, equity, and patient-centered care. “To impact these dimensions of health care, the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process must continue and evolve. Professional standing and traditional continuing medical education will no longer suffice in isolation as methods of ensuring a high level of performance among physicians,” he explained.

Dr. Garrison has spoken frequently about the necessity and benefits of MOC. He believes the most important requirement of the process is a self-selected, real-world project which crystallizes the notion that physicians can contribute to the improvement of local processes of care that benefit patients, save money, and reduce waste. “Because physicians contribute to health care in a variety of ways, from solo practice in the office setting to medical directors of large integrated institutions, allowing physicians to facilitate improvement in their existing settings increases the impact of the MOC requirement on the health care industry in general.”

Dr. Garrison regularly participates in quality improvement activities within his individual practice and within the Seton Family of Hospitals in Austin, Texas. He supplements the self-assessment portion of the MOC requirements by taking the examinations offered by the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Garrison holds general board certification in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He earned his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.



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