MOC:PQRS Facts & FAQs

What the Public Needs to Know

• The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS is the federal agency that administers the Medicare program and monitors the Medicaid programs offered by each state.

• ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (ABMS MOC®) is a program of lifelong learning by physicians who demonstrate through a series of assessments that they are capable of practicing within their specialty. By design, the ABMS MOC program focuses on ongoing practice improvement.

• The Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) is a federal quality reporting program that has a long-term goal of making more information about physician performance available to patients while rewarding physicians who provide better care.

• MOC:PQRS, an incentive program created under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, rewards physicians who participate in PQRS for participating in MOC. The program ends in 2014. It was designed to align MOC activities with federal reporting requirements in order to reduce the data collection burden on physicians and increase participation in federal quality reporting programs.

• The CMS-qualified ABMS Member Boards participating in 2014 include the following:
  - American Board of Allergy and Immunology
  - American Board of Anesthesiology
  - American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery
  - American Board of Dermatology
  - American Board of Emergency Medicine
  - American Board of Family Medicine
  - American Board of Internal Medicine
  - American Board of Neurological Surgery
  - American Board of Nuclear Medicine
  - American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
  - American Board of Ophthalmology
  - American Board of Otolaryngology
  - American Board of Pathology
  - American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
  - American Board of Radiology
  - American Board of Surgery

• ABMS is working with CECity, an education and technology provider of Web-based products and services that support the MOC process, to facilitate participation in MOC:PQRS.
What Physicians Need to Know

• The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 established MOC:PQRS as a voluntary program that runs from 2011 to 2014.

• MOC:PQRS is intended to increase physician participation in reporting and help them fulfill external requirements (e.g., PQRS) through participating in practice improvement (e.g., MOC).

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• ABMS is working with CECity, an education and technology provider of Web-based products and services that support the MOC process, to facilitate participation in MOC:PQRS. The CMS-qualified ABMS Member Boards participating in MOC:PQRS through the CECity Web-based platform MOCMatters in 2014 include the following:
  - American Board of Allergy and Immunology
  - American Board of Anesthesiology
  - American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery
  - American Board of Dermatology
  - American Board of Family Medicine
  - American Board of Internal Medicine
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  - American Board of Otolaryngology
  - American Board of Pathology
  - American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
  - American Board of Radiology
  - American Board of Surgery
• MOC Matters (https://mocmatters.abms.org/) includes tools and resources designed to increase the value of the ABMS MOC program by aligning MOC with other physician assessment and reporting initiatives.

• Although MOC:PQRS will expire in 2014, ABMS will continue to work toward aligning MOC with PQRS and other physician assessment and reporting initiatives in an effort to reduce administrative burden and increase the value of MOC.

• The ABMS MOC program focuses on lifelong learning by physicians who demonstrate that they are keeping pace with the latest advances in their specialty. By design, the ABMS MOC program focuses on ongoing practice improvement.

• The ABMS MOC program is increasingly recognized by hospitals, health plans, insurers, and others as an important quality marker.

• The ABMS MOC program responds to the public's increasing demand for physicians to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to quality. Studies have shown that the public values physician participation in a MOC program. In a 2010 ABMS consumer survey of more than 1,000 U.S. adults:
  o 95 percent of Americans said it's important to them that their physicians participate in a program to maintain their Board Certification, with two-thirds (66 percent) saying it is “very important.”
What Professionals Need to Know

• MOC:PQRS increases participation in PQRS and satisfies a federal need to provide useful information about physician care. Through MOC:PQRS, physicians will become accustomed to using registries and other forms of reporting to capture and learn from their clinical data.

• MOC:PQRS increases participation in the ABMS MOC program, which assures that physicians are keeping pace with the latest advances in their specialty.

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What the Member Boards Need to Know

• MOC:PQRS is intended to increase the value of the ABMS MOC program to diplomates and increase the visibility of the ABMS MOC program to the public.

• MOC:PQRS increases participation in both the ABMS MOC program and federal quality reporting initiatives.

• MOC:PQRS may increase physicians’ familiarity of and comfort with registries and increase their use in MOC programs.

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• The MOC:PQRS tools will be the first of several products developed in association with CECity to support MOC.

• Programs such as MOC:PQRS enable MOC to play a role in future health care quality initiatives, including the “Value-Based Modifier,” which is expected to be implemented in 2015.