



Policy Title:

Public Input to Committee on Certification (COCERT)

Scope:

Board, Member Boards, Associate Members, COCERT, Staff, Public Members

Purpose:

Public input to COCERT may provide additional perspectives, help inform the review process and better reflect the “public interest.” For the purposes of COCERT, public input is more encompassing than patient and consumer groups; it also includes organizations outside the purview of the medical profession who may be potentially impacted by a new specialty/subspecialty certification. Public input may also provide useful information about the impact of the proposed specialty/subspecialty on quality of care, patient understanding, cost and access.

Policy Statement:

1. That Member Boards’ specialty/subspecialty proposals to COCERT be posted on the ABMS Public Website for public comment.
2. That COCERT seek input from key external public stakeholders including:
 - a. Consumer advocacy groups (e.g., Consumers Union, AARP, National Partnership for Women and Families) – *COCERT to select one or more*
 - b. Health-related organizations – *COCERT to select one or more*
 - Payers
 - Insurers (e.g., BCBSA, Aetna)
 - Accreditors (TJC, NCQA)
 - Credentialers (NAMSS)
 - Government
 - State Medical Licensing Boards
 - c. Additional comment from public (selected by Member Board) that would provide a valuable perspective on the proposed subspecialty certificate.

Procedure:

1. Member Boards’ specialty/subspecialty proposal to COCERT will be posted on the ABMS Public Website for public comment 60 days prior to the first reading by COCERT.
2. Member Boards will identify appropriate key external public stakeholders for comment on their specialty/subspecialty applications. From key external public stakeholders, Member Boards must solicit (and include) no more than two stakeholder comments received by them with their specialty/subspecialty applications.
 - a. Member Boards must note if no key external public stakeholder comments were received from their solicitations.
3. Public comments will also be solicited from key external public stakeholders as identified by COCERT. Member Boards will be encouraged to provide guidance to COCERT for soliciting these key external public stakeholders.
 - a. Working with the Chair, staff will seek external public stakeholder comments for COCERT as directed.

4. Public comments must be received electronically or by mail at least two weeks prior to the first reading by COCERT.
 - a. Electronic correspondence may be submitted at www.abms.org
 - b. Mail correspondence to:
Paul Lawlor
Manager, Program Review and Services
American Board of Medical Specialties
353 North Clark Street,
Suite 1400
Chicago, IL 60654
5. Public comments received by stakeholders will be acknowledged within 30 days of receipt in writing.
6. Public comments will be disseminated to COCERT and considered during their first reading.
7. COCERT will review public comments and any subsequent correspondence received from Member Organizations and make a recommendation to the ABMS Board after the second reading.
8. Organizations submitting public comments will be notified of the final outcome.

Bylaws Reference:

Not applicable

Adoption:

BOD	09/2010 – policy approved
COCERT	03/2011 – procedure finalized

Review and Revision
