Studies in peer reviewed journals indicate continuing certification is linked to better quality patient care

**Diabetes care**

- Physicians improve hemoglobin A1c and blood pressure control
- Physicians increase foot and eye exams
- Physicians improve process measures and hemoglobin A1c control

**Asthma care**

- Pediatricians improve asthma action plans and control tests, resulting in a decline of asthma exacerbations patient care
- Physicians improve care for asthma patients
- Pediatricians improve flu vaccine rates for asthma population

**Hypertension care**

- Family doctors improve care of hypertension patients after completing continuing certification activity
- Family physicians and internists improve blood pressure control in hypertensive patients

**Better care for children**

- Pediatricians improve HPV vaccination rates
- Pediatricians improve screening for injury prevention
- Pediatricians improve the process of treating Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis
- Pediatricians lower catheter-associated bloodstream infection rate
- Pediatric gastroenterologists improve documentation, processes, and patient outcomes for endoscopic procedures
- Pediatricians improve HPV vaccination rates
- Pediatricians improve screening for injury prevention
- Pediatricians improve the process of treating Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis
- Pediatricians lower catheter-associated bloodstream infection rate
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**Better care for elderly**

- Physicians improve processes of care for diabetes and mammography screening in Medicare patients
- Physicians boost screening for fall risk in vulnerable elderly population

**Continuing certification facilitates physicians making practice improvements**

- Family physicians find continuing certification activities highly relevant, useful for treating patients
- 94% of physician anesthesiologists who participated in continuing certification simulation activity implemented practice improvements
- Emergency physicians find continuing certification Lifelong Learning and Self-assessment activity relevant, likely to change practice
- 92% of emergency physicians taking the continuing certification exam, see tangible benefits in maintaining certification, including reinforced medical knowledge and increased knowledge

**Continuing certification increases adherence to clinical guidelines**

- Continuing certification exam promotes use of diabetes guidelines
- Continuing certification activity encourages use of hypertension guidelines
- Physicians boost compliance with pediatric obesity guidelines after completing continuing certification activity
- Family physicians improve asthma diagnosis by using action plans and guidelines after completing continuing certification activity

**Continuing certification identifies knowledge gaps**

- Continuing certification activity helps neurosurgeons identify knowledge gaps
- Continuing certification assessments helped physicians to acquire knowledge relevant to their practice in ways that differ from what they otherwise do to stay current
Study Citations:


Let’s start a conversation about what matters to you.

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