

### 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<sup>1</sup>
- Physicians improve process measures and hemoglobin A1 control<sup>2</sup>

#### Asthma care

- Pediatricians improve asthma action plans and control tests, resulting in a decline of asthma exacerbations patient care<sup>3</sup>
- Physicians improve care for asthma patients<sup>4</sup>
- Pediatricians improve flu vaccine rates for asthma population<sup>5</sup>

#### Hypertension care

- Family doctors improve care of hypertension patients after completing continuing certification activity<sup>6</sup>
- Family physicians and internists improve blood pressure control in hypertensive patients<sup>7</sup>

#### Better care for children

- Pediatricians improve HPV vaccination rates<sup>8</sup>
- Pediatricians improve screening for injury prevention<sup>9</sup>
- Pediatricians improve the process of treating Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis<sup>10</sup>
- Pediatricians lower catheter-associated bloodstream infection rate<sup>11</sup>
- Pediatric gastroenterologists improve documentation, processes, and patient outcomes for endoscopic procedures<sup>12</sup>
- Physicians reduce infant deaths associated with congenital heart disease by 44%<sup>13</sup>

#### Better care for elderly

- Physicians improve processes of care for diabetes and mammography screening in Medicare patients<sup>14</sup>
- Physicians boost screening for fall risk in vulnerable elderly population<sup>15</sup>

#### Continuing certification facilitates physicians making practice improvements

- Family physicians find continuing certification activities highly relevant, useful for treating patients<sup>16</sup>
- 94% of physician anesthesiologists who participated in continuing certification simulation activity implemented practice improvements<sup>17</sup>
- Emergency physicians find continuing certification Lifelong Learning and Self-assessment activity relevant, likely to change practice<sup>18</sup>
- 92% of emergency physicians taking the continuing certification exam, see tangible benefits in maintaining certification, including reinforced medical knowledge and increased knowledge<sup>19</sup>

#### Continuing certification increases adherence to clinical guidelines

- Continuing certification exam promotes use of diabetes guidelines<sup>20</sup>
- Continuing certification activity encourages use of hypertension guidelines<sup>21</sup>
- Physicians boost compliance with pediatric obesity guidelines after completing continuing certification activity<sup>22</sup>
- Family physicians improve asthma diagnosis by using action plans and guidelines after completing continuing certification activity<sup>23</sup>

#### Continuing certification identifies knowledge gaps

- Continuing certification activity helps neurosurgeons identify knowledge gaps<sup>24</sup>
- Continuing certification assessments helped physicians to acquire knowledge relevant to their practice in ways that differ from what they otherwise do to stay current<sup>25</sup>

## Study Citations:

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