



ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story



Jeffery S. Johns, MD Diplomate, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

“Maintenance of Certification is a train that is moving forward in the right direction, and it is time for everyone to get on board.”

Dr. Johns admits that he initially felt Maintenance of Certification (MOC) was a rather unnecessary regulatory process. However, as he progresses through the requirements, he has grown to understand the diligence and planning behind MOC and sees great value in ensuring that board certification continues to hold true meaning to other professionals and the patients.

“I am currently involved in the first three parts of MOC for the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and in the process of planning and implementing my practice improvement project,” explained Dr. Johns. “Simply by asking myself and my administrative teams how we can improve what we’re doing, I have found value. Until processes are at least questioned and analyzed, the room for improvement might never become apparent.”

The continuous improvements are something that patients should also be aware of, according to Dr. Johns. He believes that a board certified physician who participates in and successfully completes this process is one who is committed to life-long learning. “Medicine and medical practice continue to change and therefore this type of ongoing personal and professional development through MOC helps to ensure that physicians are qualified and equipped with up-to-date information and skills.”

As states and credentialing processes begin to consider similar programs through maintenance of licensure or otherwise, it is inevitable that physicians will be required to participate in MOC or something similar in order to continue practicing. Dr. Johns advises his peers to take a proactive approach. “There are definite personal and professional benefits that are potentially missed if one waits until they are forced to act.”

Dr. Johns holds general board certification in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and subspecialty certification in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine from the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He has been in practice for nine years. Dr. Johns is currently Associate Medical Director of Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida and Medical Director of the hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Program. Dr. Johns earned his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine.



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American Board of Medical Specialties
222 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
T: (312) 436-2600
F: (312) 436-2700

www.abms.org

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