



ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story

Anita Mahajan, MD Diplomate, American Board of Radiology

“Maintenance of Certification is an opportunity to show confidence in yourself and set an example for others.”

Dr. Mahajan views her board certification as a good foundation that ensures an appropriate level of care and practice principles, yet requires the extra efforts of Maintenance of Certification (MOC) to explore modern techniques and incorporate them for better patient care. “Board certification really is very important,” said Dr. Mahajan. “It’s a benchmark for yourself, it’s a benchmark for your peers and it’s a benchmark for your patients. But it’s a foundation. The American Board of Radiology MOC program encourages me to take an objective look at my daily activities and find better ways to treat patients.”

Although she is in the early years of the ten-year MOC cycle for Radiation Oncology, Dr. Mahajan has already completed a number of continuing medical education activities involving clinical research to optimize patient care. MOC required her to incorporate activities into her practice which were as simple as keeping a log of things that should be performed on a daily or weekly basis, to attending meetings and reading journal articles, as well as reviewing practice guidelines and cases with peers. While the process may be more time consuming, she says it does allow for continuous maintenance of standards.

The process and standards are what Dr. Mahajan thinks patients should know more about to help increase their confidence in the care they receive. “Patients often come to see me with research from the Internet that I have to verify or explain. They are genuinely interested in my background and do ask about the medical school I attended and training programs I completed, and if I am up-to-date with my certification and re-certification. This is a major change in the typical discussions I have had with patients.”

As for her colleagues, Dr. Mahajan encourages them to start the process because she believes everyone will benefit in the long run.

Dr. Mahajan holds general board certification in Radiation Oncology from the American Board of Radiology and has been in practice for 12 years. She is currently an Associate Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas where she is also the Associate Residency Program Director and Director of Clinical Pediatric Radiation Oncology. Dr. Mahajan earned her medical degree from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine.



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