

ABMS Maintenance of Certification

One Specialist's Story



Robert J. Clemons MD
Diplomate, American Board of Dermatology

“Education is central to MOC for both doctors AND patients. Knowledgeable, skilled doctors can continue to provide quality care. Informed patients can make better healthcare choices.”

Dr. Clemons is looking forward to beginning the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program with the American Board of Dermatology in 2012. Having recently completed his recertification exam, he sees MOC as a natural progression of the certification process. “I am happy that it has been set up by individuals in the profession who understand what it means to be a competent dermatologist, rather than from a completely separate body that may not have as much of an insight,” he said.

In looking ahead, Dr. Clemons says he is most impressed with how thoroughly the MOC program requirements were outlined by his board. “The fact that the board has made MOC so easy to transition into was most reassuring.” He explained that some of the activities already happening in his practice will fulfill the MOC program requirements, so he won't have to implement something new. For example, data from patient surveys and chart reviews will be valuable for the practice performance and self-assessment and education activities. Dr. Clemons is particularly happy with the quality and variety of learning choices offered through the board and the American Academy of Dermatology to accumulate the continuing medical education (CME) credits required.

To Dr. Clemons, participation in MOC extends the proof of competency awarded when he first received his board certification. “We should be able to show what we do to improve our knowledge and our practice. Explaining this process to the public shows the profession's commitment to deliver the quality of healthcare that everyone wants, needs and expects.”

Dr. Clemons holds general certification in Dermatology from the American Board of Dermatology. He has been in practice for eight years at a private group practice in Johnson City, TN. Dr. Clemons earned his medical degree from East Tennessee State University James H. Quillen College of Medicine where he serves as adjunct faculty in the Departments of Pediatrics and Family Medicine.



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ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (MOC) is a professional development program for physicians who are certified by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards. The MOC program standards are set by ABMS and independently implemented by the Member Boards. MOC promotes continuous lifelong learning and self assessment to better meet patient, provider and payer expectations for quality care.

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