

## **Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) Facts**

This memorandum was developed for general informational purposes only. It is not meant to be a comprehensive guide, nor should it be construed as authoritative legal advice. The information in this memorandum is current as of **May 2012**. However, users should review the most current version of cited references.

### **Maintenance of Licensure (MOL)**

Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) is a system of continuous professional development for physicians that supports, as a condition for license renewal, a physician's commitment to lifelong learning that is relevant to their area of practice and contributes to improved health care. MOL is an umbrella term that is used to describe the various educational activities that physicians participate in to improve clinical and practice management skills.

### **Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is the process of keeping physician certification up-to-date through one of the 24 approved medical specialty boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The Maintenance of Certification program provides an ongoing process that was designed to help physicians keep abreast of advances in their fields, develop better practice systems, and demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning. Through ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, board certified physicians in 24 medical specialties build six core competencies for quality patient care in their medical specialty. These competencies were first adopted by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and ABMS in 1999. Physicians in Ohio are not required to be board certified. **Board certification is a voluntary process.**

### **Ohio's Continuing Medical Education (CME) Requirement**

Every two years a physician must complete 100 hours of CME. At least 40 credits of CME **MUST** be earned in Category 1, although the total 100 credits **MAY** be earned in Category 1.

Currently, the State Medical Board of Ohio offers 25 Category 1 credits to physicians who participate in ABMS MOC programs.

#### **Category 1 Credit**

**Criteria:** Category 1 activities are planned, structured activities offered by an accredited provider of CME who also designates the education for AMA PRA Category 1 credit. These learning activities may be in the form of lectures, seminars or workshops, or may be based on self-assessment programs, audiovisual, Internet-based or computer materials.

## Category 2 Credit

AMA PRA Category 2 Credit is defined as all educational activities not designated for Category 1 that: comply with the AMA definition of CME; comply with the AMA ethical opinions on Gifts to Physicians from Industry and on Ethical Issues in CME (i.e., are not promotional); and a physician finds to be a worthwhile learning experience related to his/her practice. Accredited providers do not designate activities for AMA PRA Category 2 Credit.

Physicians may claim AMA PRA Category 2 Credit for such learning activities as: teaching residents, medical students or other health professionals; unstructured online searching and learning (i.e., not Internet PoC); reading authoritative medical literature; or participating in live activities not designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit. Other examples include:

- Consultations with peers and experts
- Small group discussions
- Self assessment activities
- Medical writing
- Preceptorships
- Research

In each case, the physician individually determines the educational value of those AMA PRA Category 2 activities in which he or she participates.

## **Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)**

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) is a national non-profit organization representing the 70 medical and osteopathic boards of the United States and its territories.

### **Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) MOL Core Components**

The framework for MOL, adopted by the FSMB's House of Delegates in 2010, recommends that state boards require physicians to periodically demonstrate participation in three components of effective lifelong learning in medicine:

- 1. Reflective Self-Assessment (*What improvements can I make?*):** Physicians must participate in an ongoing process of reflective self-evaluation, self-assessment and practice assessment, with subsequent successful completion of appropriate educational or improvement activities.
- 2. Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (*What do I need to know and be able to do?*):** Physicians must demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to provide safe, effective patient care within the framework of the six general competencies as they apply to their individual practice.
- 3. Performance in Practice (*How am I doing?*):** Physicians must demonstrate accountability for performance in their practice using a variety of methods that incorporate reference data to assess their performance in practice and guide improvement.

## OSMA MOL Policy

### **Amended Resolution 16 – 2012 Maintenance of Board Certification and Maintenance of Licensure Requirements**

RESOLVED, The OSMA actively oppose any efforts by the State Medical Board of Ohio to implement different maintenance of licensure requirements other than those currently in place for physicians in Ohio; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the OSMA form a task force to explore methods, other than maintenance of certification, for physicians to demonstrate ongoing competency in anticipation of new requirements for maintenance of licensure by the State Medical Board of Ohio.

#### **OSMA Position on Maintenance of Licensure (MOL)**

The OSMA Council met on May 19, 2012 to discuss issues related to MOL, MOC and possible Medical Board actions. The Council members realize that there is much confusion surrounding MOL, as well as MOL's relation to MOC. The OSMA Council released the following statement in an effort to clarify the OSMA's position on this issue.

#### **Ohio State Medical Association Statement on Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) Approved by OSMA Council on May 19, 2012**

On May 10, 2012, the State Medical Board of Ohio decided to begin studying components of Maintenance of Licensure (MOL), as one of several states participating in pilot studies with the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB).

Consistent with OSMA policy, the OSMA actively opposes any efforts by the State Medical Board of Ohio to unilaterally implement different MOL requirements other than those currently in place for physicians in Ohio. There is no data that demonstrates implementing MOL requirements beyond Ohio's prescribed Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements would provide enhanced quality of care to patients. The State Medical Board of Ohio already requires more prescribed CME than several other states. In fact, there are several states that do not require physicians to meet any CME requirements.

The OSMA supports the concepts of life-long learning and physician self assessment and improvement, but until there is evidenced-based data proving that additional MOL requirements in Ohio would equate to more competent physicians, the OSMA cannot support this effort in its current form.

Following the OSMA's investigation and involvement in this issue, it has become clear that ***Maintenance of Certification (MOC) will not be mandated by the Medical Board to meet the guidelines for MOL.*** The OSMA will actively monitor the Medical Board's participation and we are prepared to take this issue to the legislature, if necessary.