From the Desk of the Governor

Maintenance of Certification

By now, you are probably aware the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) is revising its rules for Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Let’s review some of the details:

**What?** ABIM is shifting to a more continuous process than its current 10-year recertification model. They are also adding a second credential to be reported publicly; in addition to reporting if you are Board Certified, they will now also report whether or not you are Meeting MOC Requirements. Starting in 2014, to be credentialed as Meeting MOC Requirements you must enroll and complete a MOC activity at least every two years. Physicians enrolled in MOC get points for completing medical knowledge modules, participating in performance improvement activities or for several other things. Our Annual Chapter Meeting sponsors a MOC module (Update in Internal Medicine SEP) - this is an easy way to get some of your needed points!

**Who?** Everyone! It is important to know that this holds whether you were granted an indefinite certificate (prior to 1990), just completed a recertification cycle, or just certified for the first time. This is a change in stance by the ABIM for physicians who were issued time unlimited certificates.

**Why?** The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), of which ABIM is a member, believes that a process of continuous certification improves patient care by establishing high standards for education and practice improvement. The Institute of Medicine argues that due to a continually expanding knowledge base, the profession needs a mechanism to ensure its members are up to date with current best practices. There are public expectations that we are held to this standard. In responding to the question: “These weren’t the rules when I certified. Why do I have to do this now?” the ABIM responds: “Certification and MOC have been and continue to be evolutionary processes. In order to help you keep pace with the changes in the science of medicine and assessment, ABMS and ABIM believe that a more continuous MOC program is vital to fulfilling our mission of assuring patients that Board Certified physicians

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Strengthen Our Chapter: Participate in ACP’s Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter Rewards Program!

The American College of Physicians and the Connecticut Chapter encourages all members to help strengthen our chapter by recommending ACP membership to colleagues. By joining the College, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to all of the ACP member benefits that you enjoy.

To thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP offers incentives to members and their chapters that recruit new members through the Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter (RACC) Rewards Program.

As with the national Recruit-a-Colleague Program, the RACC Program rewards successful individual recruiters with dues credits for each new full Member or Physician Affiliate member recruited and a chance to win a trip to the annual Internal Medicine meeting. In addition, the RACC Program also provides rewards to the recruiters’ chapters, including funding for chapter activities and complimentary registrations to the annual Internal Medicine meeting.

The Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter Rewards Program runs annually from April 1 through March 15.

To participate, simply forward to your colleagues a membership application found at www.acponline.org/racc. To qualify for the program, your name must be listed on the recruiter line of the application, and the form must include the code RACC.

Thank you for your help in strengthening our chapter!

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Introducing The Consult Guys! A unique and entertaining way to earn FREE CME from Annals of Internal Medicine!

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Episode 1: Cleared for Surgery? Perioperative Risk Assessment
Episode 2: Stumper: A 23 year old with a myocardial infarction - will you get the right diagnosis?
Tune into a new episode each month.

The Physician & Practice Timeline: Upcoming Deadline, October 15, for PQRS & VBP

ACP’s new resource, the Physician & Practice Timeline, assists members in keeping track of various upcoming important dates related to a variety of regulatory, payment, educational, and delivery system changes and requirements. This tool outlines various important programs that physicians and their practices should be aware of.

An important upcoming date for the Physician Quality and Reporting System (PQRS) is October 15, 2013. This is the last day for physicians to register for 2013 PQRS group reporting and be on their way to avoid the 1.5% PQRS penalty and the 1% Value Based Payment (VBP) penalty in 2015. Group practice registering for the group practice reporting option (GPRO) for the 2013 PQRS reporting period must use the Physician Value-Physician Quality Reporting System (PV-PQRS) Registration System to elect their reporting method. Group practices should use the PV-PQRS Registration system to select or change their PQRS group reporting mechanism for 2013 if they plan on using one of the following reporting mechanisms: GPRO-Web interface, registry reporting, or CMS-calculated administrative claims reporting mechanism. In addition, group practices should also use this system to elect quality tiering for the value based payment (VBP) program, if applicable, to calculate the VBP modifier. The VBP only applies to groups of 100 or more eligible professionals during this first year of implementation. Individual eligible professionals must also use this system to select the CMS-calculated administrative claims reporting mechanism in 2013 to avoid the PQRS payment adjustment in 2015.

ACP Connecticut Chapter Meeting scheduled for Friday, November 15
Lisa Sanders MD, FACP

The 2013 ACP meeting for the Connecticut Chapter returns to Southington and the Aqua Turf Club next month. We have another great line up. As usual, the day starts off with an exhibit of the posters from residency programs across the state. Because it seems like there’s never quite enough time to really appreciate these posters, the education sessions have been pushed back an Once again we will offer two tracks of programs: one focusing on hospital based medicine and the other for issues in the outpatient setting. Medications are a big topic this year. Joseph Ming Wah Li, the former president of the Society for Hospital Medicine, and a faculty member of the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston will review new drugs that every one working in a hospital setting should know about. Silvio Inzucchi, the head of the Yale Diabetes Center, will discuss new drugs in the treatment of diabetes and Gail Sullivan from the UConn Center on Aging will talk about medications that should be avoided in the elderly.

The Keynote address will be given by Jewel Mullen, the Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Public Health, who will discuss the state’s efforts to better integrate public health with the current health care system.

After lunch there will be a panel made up of Connecticut physician who will look at issues of the transitions in care

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From the Governor’s Desk

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are committed and qualified to provide high-quality care.”

When? If you are not already enrolled in MOC, you will need to enroll between January and March 2014. Once again, this holds true even if you just acquired your certificate in 2013. ABIM will be communicating with all of its diplomates to provide specific instructions.

How? Meeting MOC Requirements will entail completion of a MOC activity every two years, and a total of 100 points every 5 years. There will continue to be a secure examination every 10 years; starting in 2014, an examination attempt will count for 20 points. Among the 100 points required every 5 years, at least 20 must be in medical knowledge and at least 20 points in practice assessment. ACP has been negotiating with ABIM to remove the requirement for a patient survey and may be making progress on this. There are several ACP products and activities that will count towards MOC points; we will know soon whether newer products like the High Value Care Modules will count.

To learn more, visit the ACP web site for an explanation of the new process and descriptions of what is expected based on when your certification expires (http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/recertification/). Also, ABIM has set up a website to explain the new MOC process (http://moc2014.abim.org/).
Council of Residents and Fellows Update

Rebecca Andrews, MD, FACP

Name Change

Multiple organizations such as the American College of Physicians have councils devoted to members at different career stages. Previously the Council for Resident and Fellow Members was called the Associates Council. For clarity and distinction from our councils pertaining to medical students the council has been renamed the Council of Residents and Fellows. Please look for our events and newsletter updates.

Upcoming Events

Have you ever wanted to try rock climbing? Want to improve your skills? Tired of going out to the same places? With the same people? Join us for an event at an indoor rock climbing event 11/9/13 from 1-3pm. Residents and fellows across the state will be invited. Spaces are limited so please RSVP to reandrews@uchc.edu.

MedChallenge 2013, our chapter's Doctor's Dilemma/Medical Jeopardy tournament for residency programs, takes place this October. Teams will be preparing until October 23rd when round 1 competition will be held at Waterbury Hospital. The final round will happen at this year's annual Connecticut Chapter ACP meeting (information below).

Contact me with any ideas for future events/meetings at reandrews@uchc.edu.

Looking to become involved?

Reach out by email either to me or to your chief resident if you would like a more active role in the council. The ACP local chapters and councils are a great way to get involved in advocacy (for your patients and your profession) as well as the organization leadership.

Join ACP’s Special Interest Groups!

ACP’s Special Interest Groups – an online forum for members only – provide members with a place to engage in discussions, share ideas, and support one another professionally and personally.

Participate by joining as many groups as you’d like, then connect with ACP members from all over the world with similar interests. Groups include:

- African American Members
- ACOs/New Practice Models
- Caring for Adults with Developmental Disability
- Clinical Problem-Solving
- Clinical Research
- Emerging Technologies
- High Value Care
- Hospital Medicine
- LGBT Health
- Maintenance of Certification
- MKSAP
- Physician Educators
- Small Practices
- Volunteerism
- Women in Medicine
- Work/Life Balance
- Working Abroad

Join today at www.acponline.org/sigs.

Interested in a topic not listed? Contact ACP at mbrdev@acponline.org to ask about forming a new group.

Save the Date

Mark your calendars: the next CT Chapter ACP Meeting will take place November 15, 2013. If you have an interesting case, submit an abstract!

Mobile Tools:

ACP Smart Medicine App: point of care treatment advice and guidelines

ACP JournalWise App: stay up to date on peer-reviewed articles

Free Annals of Internal Medicine iPhone App

There is a free Annals of Internal Medicine app for your iPhone. It allows you to: 1) View abstracts and link to full text of all articles from the current issue, 2) See which recent articles are creating the most buzz in the Popular tab, 3) Quickly access published clinical guidelines, 4) Listen to podcasts and watch videos covering the latest topics, and 5) Read In The Clinic and ACP Journal Club articles. Look for the new iPad app coming soon!

Become and Advocate for Internal Medicine

ACP's continued success on Capitol Hill greatly depends upon year-round grassroots support from the College's participants in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (formerly known as the “Key Contact Program”). Advocates e-mail, call and meet with their members of Congress on issues of importance to medical students, internists and their patients, and report the results back to ACP. To enroll as an Advocate, ACP members are not required to have existing relationships with their members of Congress. ACP gives them the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships. The program is open to all membership categories. Look HERE for more information.

Please contact Rebecca Andrews (reandrews@uchc.edu) for any further information on the CT Chapter for the Council of Residents and Fellows.

Chapter Meeting November 15

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from outpatient, to in-patient and then out again. This should be a very dynamic session where we will trace one patient as she moves from home through the hospital and rehab before returning home. Panelists and audience will discuss some of the challenges of providing good and consistent care in kind of fractured systems we have.

As usual, we will offer the ACP’s Update in Internal Medicine module for 2013.

And we will end the day with the final round of medical Jeopardy and present awards to the residents for their posters and the mystery cases. Hope to see you there!
SAVE THE DATE!!!

ANNUAL ACP CT CHAPTER MEETING

Enhance your clinical knowledge and skills
Earn CME credit
Network with colleagues

Aqua Turf Club – Southington, CT

Friday, November 15, 2013
7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

For more information: Nancy Sullivan
Phone: (860) 349-8995 • E-mail: ctacp@comcast.net

To learn more about the chapter, please visit the chapter web site:
http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ct/news_meet.htm