

Maintenance of Certification in Endocrinology Committee Report

Maintenance of Certification in Endocrinology (MOCE) will be mandatory starting in 2010. The MOCE Committee for Part 4 of the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process is divided into two subcommittees. A survey of members of the LWPES and Endocrine Section of the AAP in 8/08 had a response rate of 43%. The top choice for topics was Type 1 Diabetes and Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) was second. Since some endocrinologists have more emphasis on diabetes in their practice and others deal primarily with non-diabetes endocrine disorders, we decided to address both conditions. Rosalind Brown is Chair of the CH subcommittee with members Alan Rogol, Steve LaFranchi, and Susan Rose. Janet Silverstein and Bob Schwartz are Co-Chairs of the Type 1 Diabetes subcommittee with members Ken Copeland, Lynne Levitsky, Leslie Plotnick, Fran Kaufman, Sam Cassella, and Dorothy Becker. Both subcommittees have held phone conferences with members of the American Board of Pediatrics and the AAP. Although both subcommittees initially considered forming collaborative networks as a means of developing quality improvement initiatives, funding issues precluded this approach. Therefore, both subcommittees decided that the most practical approach at this time to meet the MOCE Part 4 (QI) requirement for our membership was to develop EQIPP (Education in Quality Improvement in Private Practice) modules through the AAP Division of E-Learning. These educational modules are web-based and allow for entry of patient data from 10-25 patients with follow-up of 2-3 clinical activities to assess quality improvement of pre-determined variables. Thus, all pediatric endocrinologists, whether in academic or private practice environments, will be able to meet the MOCE Part 4 criteria for maintenance of certification. Applications for developing an EQIPP module have been submitted by both subcommittees. The Diabetes proposal has been approved, but is not yet funded. The proposal for Congenital Hypothyroidism is pending.

In addition to the EQIPP approach, Sam Cassella has developed a relationship with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as part of a collaborative currently in place among CF Centers. The CF Foundation is developing a database that can be incorporated into their existing network which will meet the QI criteria for MOC and ultimately improve care for children with CF Related Diabetes. Participating CF Centers are supported by the CF Foundation and have funds to support a Central Coordinating Center and for participating centers to hire personnel for data entry. All endocrinologists practicing at institutions with CF Centers will have an opportunity to participate in this collaborative. We hope to learn from this experience and use this knowledge to approach other funding groups in the future to sponsor collaboratives for quality improvement initiatives in diabetes, congenital hypothyroidism and other endocrine disorders.

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