



PORTFOLIO PROGRAMTM

American Board of Medical Specialties



American Board
of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®



Supporting Continuous Learning and Quality Improvement

The ABMS Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program™ (Portfolio Program), a service provided through the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), works with all types of health care organizations to recognize the work physicians are already doing to improve their practices and the care of their patients. It offers an option for organizations to support physician involvement in local quality/performance improvement (QI/PI) initiatives and award physicians Part IV credit for the American Board of Medical Specialties Program for Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC®).

Relevant Activities, Unified Process

Organizations that sponsor and support numerous QI/PI efforts involving physicians across multiple specialties now have a streamlined approach to working with the ABMS Member Boards. This promotes organizational effectiveness and efficiency through team-based initiatives that are directly related to the physician's practice. In doing so, the Portfolio Program delivers a more meaningful, relevant MOC experience for physicians:

- Increased practice-based and clinical efficiencies
- Enhanced communication with colleagues, patients, and caregivers
- Better working relationships within the system of care

Participation that Counts for MOC Credit

Portfolio Program sponsors create an environment where physician involvement in QI/PI and MOC is supported. Sponsors can help their physicians earn MOC practice improvement credit for participating in approved initiatives that align with organizational priorities such as communication, efficiency, patient safety, and transition of care. Examples of particular project areas include:

- Advanced care planning
- Cancer screening (breast, cervical, colon)
- Cardiovascular disease prevention
- Depression
- Immunizations
- Obesity

Benefits for Patients, Families, and Communities

Patients and their families expect their physicians to be up-to-date on the most recent treatments for their ailments as well as best practices for preventive care. ABMS MOC plays a vital role in making sure physicians critically evaluate their current practices, acquire new skills, and adapt their practices to changing patient and community health needs. When physicians participate in Portfolio Program activities, they fulfill these commitments and provide:

- Better communicative relationships built on listening and sharing
- Demonstrated clinical knowledge concerning a patient's medical condition
- Coordinated care from interprofessional teams and integrated systems of care

A Look at the Sponsors

Portfolio Program sponsors oversee a variety of QI/PI activities for physicians working in:

- Academic medical centers
- Accountable care organizations
- Associations
- Community hospitals
- Consortiums and collaboratives
- Government agencies
- Hospital groups
- Integrated delivery systems
- Medical specialty societies
- Physician organizations
- Practice-based networks
- Quality improvement organizations

Some of the current Portfolio Program sponsors include:

- AHRQ EvidenceNOW Initiative
- American Academy of Pediatrics – Ohio Chapter
- Cleveland Clinic
- Interstate Postgraduate Medical Association of North America (IPMA)
- Maine Quality Counts
- Mayo Clinic
- Medical Society of Virginia Foundation
- Meriter-UnityPoint Health
- Palmetto Health
- Partners Healthcare
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- The Medical College of Wisconsin
- Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

To see the complete list, visit mocportfolioprogram.org

Support for the Portfolio Program

"[The Portfolio Program] gives us an opportunity to develop performance improvement programs...that once they are developed, many physicians can engage in and spread it throughout practices and the physicians have the added incentive of getting Maintenance of Certification credit. And the Portfolio Program allows us to pull this all together so everybody can row in the same direction."

Morris J. Blachman, PhD, University of South Carolina School of Medicine

"The ABMS Multi-Specialty Portfolio Improvement Program has been a tremendous asset... in that we have been able to share resources across practices. For example, we have an adult patient communication project...and because they have [created] a tool that has been very successful in facilitating the conversations between physicians and patients, we can now use that same tool in our pediatric practice to have a direct impact on patient care."

Linda Caples, MBA, Medical College of Wisconsin

"The ABMS Portfolio Program allows physicians to fully engage in quality improvement work that is already going on. It's beneficial to them for their Board Certification; it's beneficial to the institution because it lines up with priorities of the institution; and it's better for their patients because it helps improve the quality of care that is given."

Grant M. Greenberg, MD, MHSA, MA, University of Michigan Medical School

ABMS MOC and the Portfolio Program

ABMS focuses on improving the quality of health care by establishing the professional standards used by its 24 Member Boards to develop and implement evaluation, assessment, and improvement programs for the certification and professional development of physician specialists. Through the ABMS MOC program, board certified physicians advance the standard of specialty medical care nationwide for improved outcomes and better patient experiences. The Portfolio Program supports physicians' ongoing development and competence in systems-based practice and practice-based learning for which they can be awarded Part IV MOC credit.



A Chance to Improve the Quality of Health Care

The quality, safety, and efficiency of patient care are essentially determined by an organization's infrastructure, personnel, and operational systems. Portfolio Program sponsors and program reviewers are important contributors to the advancement of QI/PI initiatives nationwide by recognizing the activities and accomplishments of physicians and medical teams at local health care organizations.

Become a Portfolio Program Sponsor

By becoming a Portfolio Program sponsor, physicians and organizations have an opportunity to engage in initiatives that can set best practices for patient care and organization operations. To participate in the Portfolio Program, an organization must complete an organizational profile, provide examples of three QI/PI efforts (cross specialty or specialty specific), and be committed to:

- Developing, sponsoring, and overseeing multiple quality improvement efforts that meet the standards and guidelines of the Portfolio Program
- Utilizing an infrastructure for governing, evaluating, and managing QI/PI efforts for the organization, network, or area
- Creating an internal review committee or group (or adapt an existing committee/group) to evaluate and approve QI/PI efforts for MOC credit using Portfolio Program standards and guidelines
- Submitting physician completion data and periodic progress reports

Become a Portfolio Program Reviewer*

The Portfolio Program depends on volunteers to review new sponsor initiatives according to program standards and guidelines. Reviewers are professionals with expertise in quality improvement, and those with broad medical knowledge within a specialty. They can serve in the following ways:

- Review sponsor organization applications to the Portfolio Program by evaluating individual QI/PI activities and/or organizational applications
- Review progress reports on specific sponsor projects to ensure they meet Portfolio Program requirements
- Serve as condition-specific subject matter experts, providing support for the quality improvement reviewers

*Individuals must be actively working in their field and have at least three years experience in healthcare related QI/PI projects. Physicians must be meeting the MOC requirements of their specialty Member Board.



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