

TG -127 and MOC

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AAPM and MOC

- ABMS guidelines are the Norm
- Formation of Task Group (TG - 127) at about the time Trustees had submitted modifications to the original MOC proposal to ABMS
- TG -- 127
 - Act as a resource to the ABR Physics Trustees and AAPM members concerning MOC requirements and implementation
 - Provide information/suggestions on activities that meet MOC requirements
 - Insure that educational activities are available to members

TG 127

- Membership (12)
 - Representation from Professional Information and Clinical Relations Committee (PICR) of Professional Council
 - Educational Council
 - Continuing Professional Development
 - Education and Training of Medical Physicists
 - Spectrum of individuals with different certifications
 - Includes newly certified individuals

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- Major recognition that it is the ABMS that is in charge of MOC through the ABR Physics Trustees
- ABR Trustees have been willing to listen; however, as noted, the current published guidelines were submitted to ABMS prior to formation of TG

TG work

- Conference call
- E-mail
 - Working to understand the guidelines as submitted to ABMS
 - Reviewed the guidelines as a group with comments
 - Specifically explored CEUs and impact on individuals
 - Initial consideration on Performance in Practice possibilities
- Summary as follows

Professional Standing

- current guidelines seem workable

Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment

- This is an area that has been the subject of much discussion, particularly lifelong learning
- in essence
 - 25 CE credits per year, category 1
 - 25 credits per year, category 1 or SDEPs
- Group concerned over total
 - Difficulties perceived due to occupational environment (sole physicist, for example), hospital based, consultant, as regards annual attendance at AAPM meeting
 - SDEP opportunities may be limited
 - Many worthwhile educational opportunities that are not category 1

CE credits

- Concern over the use of only Category 1 or SDEPs for the other 25
- This has been expressed to the ABR Trustees
 - Examples of others,
 - credits for vendor sponsored training
 - Noteworthy conferences at an institution that may not be granted Category 1
- TG feels that a redefinition of activities acceptable for the other 25 credits with 25 category 1 credits would be workable
- Although guidelines have been agreed to by ABMS, trustees are willing to listen
- Compiling more extensive examples for consideration

CE Credits and SAMs

- It is important to note possible sources of credits
- Use of Online Continuing Education (old RDCE)
- Note: many hours are being captured (audio with slides) at annual meeting and summer schools
- Continuing education courses at the annual meeting can be developed into Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs). SAMs are a “two for” (SAM plus CEUs)
- Logistics to be worked out to accomplish this
- Existing OCE items could be reframed into SAMs

CE Credits

- Category 1 credits can be from any organization that has been approved for Category 1 credits
- Do not have to have CAMPEP credits alone
- AAPM Chapter meetings often do not seek approval for credit. The process for getting credit has been streamlined so Chapters are encouraged to get credit
- Noon conferences at your institution are generally approved for credit; you might have to keep up with these yourself

Exam

- Controversial, but mandated by ABMS
- Trustees have expressed interest in guidance on material for the exam

Assessment of Performance in Practice

- This area is more difficult to define for physicists.
- To date this has only been generally defined
 - One aspect is teaching which lends itself to evaluation
 - A standardized evaluation is being formulated
- Separate group is studying the general topic of clinical practice to submit recommendations to the Trustees
 - Per Halverson is head of this group
- It is recognized that there are significant differences in practices
 - academic -- research, clinical
 - Consulting
 - only physicist at an institution
 - therapy versus diagnostic imaging

Performance in Practice

- For clinical area a possibility is peer review
 - Example is TG-103, peer review for Radiation Therapy
- Obvious logistical issues and differences in practices as noted
- Ongoing work on this area

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- Discussions Ongoing
 - Use OCE modules as SAMs with some modifications
 - Exam content
 - Practice Performance Improvement
- Projects
 - Information bulletin for members
 - Petition for redefinition of CEUs
 - Master Teaching evaluation Form
 - SAMs at the annual meeting
 - Performance Practice Improvement mechanism ideas

Future

- MOC program aspects still undergoing definition
- Continuing Education
 - Work towards further defining other 25 credits
- Major effort in SAMs
 - Will need to be a concerted effort
- Still aspects to work out
 - Exam
 - PPI
 - Specific issues for consultant physicists
 - Specific issues for physicists working alone