

PQI: Diagnostic Imaging

Currently, a common initiative in many fields is quality improvement (QI). This endeavor is especially prominent in the medical community with concerns on patient safety and reduction of medical errors. As part of its certification oversight, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has made QI a cornerstone of Maintenance of Certification (MOC). This is particularly relevant to those medical physicists with time limited American Board of Radiology (ABR) certificates or for other ABR Diplomates voluntarily enrolled in the MOC program. Consequently one of the key aspects of MOC is Part IV, Practice Quality Improvement (PQI). This part of MOC provides evidence of an ongoing program of improvement in the practice either as an individual, within the system the individual is employed, or as part of a societal based initiative. For radiation therapy physicists, this may seem somewhat nebulous due to the many duties and responsibilities in the clinical realm. For diagnostic physicists, this may seem even more undefined, especially for consultants. This session will provide information and resources for MOC, particularly PQI, from the viewpoint of The ABR, a radiation therapy physicist, and a diagnostic imaging physicist. This will include discussions on the essential components of the process, ingredients of acceptable projects, suggestions on individual projects, and projects within the AAPM.

Objectives:

At the conclusion of the presentation, an individual will

1. Gain knowledge of the basic aspects of PQI as regards to project types, basic ingredients of projects.
2. Learn about examples of projects that would be acceptable for demonstration of PQI for physicists.
3. Learn about the development of society based programs for PQI within the AAPM.