

In April 2010, the Federation of State Medical Boards adopted as policy the following MOL framework and recommendations as proposed by the Advisory Group on Continued Competence of Licensed Physicians.

Maintenance of Licensure Framework

As a condition of license renewal, physicians should provide evidence of participating in a program of professional development and lifelong learning that is based on the general competencies model:

- medical knowledge
- patient care
- interpersonal and communication skills
- practice based learning
- professionalism
- systems based practice

The following requirements reflect the three major components of what is known about effective lifelong learning in medicine.

1. Reflective Self Assessment (What improvements can I make?)

Physicians must participate in an ongoing process of reflective self-evaluation, self-assessment and practice assessment, with subsequent successful completion of appropriate educational or improvement activities.

2. Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (What do I need to know and be able to do?)

Physicians must demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to provide safe, effective patient care within the framework of the six general competencies as they apply to their individual practice.

3. Performance in Practice (How am I doing?)

Physicians must demonstrate accountability for performance in their practice using a variety of methods that incorporate reference data to assess their performance in practice and guide improvement.

Recommendations

Documentation

Licensees should be expected to provide documented evidence of compliance with the state medical board's maintenance of licensure requirements. State medical boards should provide guidance to licensees as to the types of evidence deemed acceptable and not acceptable for purposes of meeting maintenance of licensure requirements.

Licensed Physicians not in Active Clinical Practice

Physicians not in active clinical practice who wish to maintain an active license should be expected to comply with all maintenance of licensure requirements adopted by the state medical board.

Physicians with Inactive Licenses

Physicians whose licenses are inactive or have lapsed should be expected to meet maintenance of licensure requirements upon reentering active clinical practice.

Practice Profile Data

State medical boards should require licensees to report information about their practice as part of the license renewal process. Such information may include: area of current practice, type of practice (to include location, supervisory responsibilities), status (e.g., full-time, part-time, number of hours worked per week), whether they are actively seeing patients, specialty board certification or recertification status, and what activities they are engaged in if they are not engaged in clinical practice (e.g., research, administration, non-medical work, retired, etc.). Licensees should keep the board apprised of their practice status by reporting any subsequent changes to the board within a specified timeframe as determined by the board.

Practice Performance Data

Practice performance data collected and used by physicians to comply with maintenance of licensure requirements should not be reported to state medical boards. Third party attestation of collection and use of such data (as part of a professional development program) will satisfy reporting requirements.

Research

The Federation of State Medical Boards and its member state medical boards should work with other stakeholder organizations to develop research aimed at assessing the impact of maintenance of licensure programs on physician practice and patient care.

Assessment Resources

Assessment tools used to meet maintenance of licensure requirements should be:

- valid, reliable, and feasible
- credible with the public and the profession
- provide adequate feedback to the licensee to facilitate practice improvement

Professional Development Activities

Individual learning plans should address any identified needs and should include educational and improvement activities that are shown to improve performance and include plans to assess the impact of the educational and improvement activities on each physician's practice.

Board Certification in the Context of MOL

Maintenance of licensure is separate and distinct from Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC). However, state medical boards at their discretion may determine that participation in MOC and OCC represents substantial compliance with maintenance of licensure requirements. Physicians who are not participating in the maintenance of certification/osteopathic continuous certification processes may meet maintenance of licensure requirements by providing evidence of participation in available MOC or OCC activities or by participating in other approved maintenance of licensure requirements.