



American College of Medical Genetics
Medical Genetics: Translating Genes Into Health®

ACMG NEWS
For Immediate Release

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**American College of Medical Genetics
Announces New Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV Modules
Available for Clinical Geneticists**

BETHESDA, MD - August 11, 2010 | In 2006, The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) made significant changes to maintenance of certification (MOC). As the lead practice organization for medical geneticists, The American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG) has collaborated with the American Board of Medical Geneticists (ABMG) to develop a set of modules to satisfy the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV requirements. The modules allow medical geneticists to demonstrate and evaluate their excellence in practice, identify areas for improvement and document this improvement.

The practice performance assessment modules are derived from practice guidelines or expert opinion specific to genetic diseases or patient presentations for genetic evaluation.

There are 8 modules currently available including:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Counseling for Inherited Cancer Risk;
- Down syndrome;
- Fragile X syndrome;
- General Genetics Patient;
- Genetic Counseling for Preconception or Prenatal Diagnosis;
- Neurofibromatosis type-1; and
- Phenylketonuria, and more are being developed.

The modules can be accessed from the ACMG homepage under the Education tab by clicking on “Maintenance of Certification.” Detailed instructions on the program provide an overview for participating in the process, including information on how to access and complete the modules. The modules cost \$25 for ACMG members and \$75 for non-members.

Each module includes module-specific instructions, a list of resources to be reviewed, a practice profile assessment for five patients and a checklist of relevant practice guidelines. The participant reviews five patient charts relevant to that module and self-reports the assessment of practice performance. If the participant completes the module with a score of 80% or more, it is considered a successful completion of the module. However, if less than 80% is achieved, the participant will need to collect and document charts from five additional patients. A additional attempt at the module, showing an improvement in the assessment, is required to achieve completion. All participants scoring less than 100% are prompted to submit a practice improvement plan.

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All purchased modules can be saved and can be completed incrementally. A module does not have to be completed at the time of purchase. Information entered for the modules are stored in the ACMG database and are accessible through a password-protected login. Participants have three attempts within one year in which they can access a new set of patient assessments per a particular module without fee. After one year or after failing the third attempt, a new module will need to be purchased.

Once a module has been successfully completed an email will be sent to the participant for his or her own records documenting the completion of the module and the date of completion. The ACMG will provide a list to the ABMG, on a quarterly basis, of those who have successfully completed modules.

Additional features of the program include an MOC Activity Summary which lists which modules the participant has purchased, which are in progress, which have been completed and the practice improvement plans submitted for each module.

ACMG's initial goal is to provide at least one module that would be applicable to everyone. Additional modules are being developed to meet the diverse needs of the medical genetics community. Individuals are encouraged to access the modules early. If an additional five cases are needed it may take some time to collect those cases.

Detailed instructions can be found on the Maintenance of Certification web page at www.acmg.net.

Note to editors: To arrange interviews with experts in medical genetics, contact Kathy Beal, MBA, ACMG Director of Public Relations at kbeal@acmg.net or 301-238-4582.

About the American College of Medical Genetics

Founded in 1991, the American College of Medical Genetics (www.acmg.net) advances the practice of medical genetics by providing education, resources and a voice for more than 1400 biochemical, clinical, cytogenetic, medical and molecular geneticists, genetic counselors and other healthcare professionals committed to the practice of medical genetics. ACMG's activities include the development of laboratory and practice standards and guidelines, advocating for quality genetic services in healthcare and in public health, and promoting the development of methods to diagnose, treat and prevent genetic disease. *Genetics in Medicine*, published monthly, is the official ACMG peer-reviewed journal. ACMG's website (www.acmg.net) offers a variety of resources including Policy Statements, Practice Guidelines variety of resources including Policy Statements, Practice Guidelines, Educational Resources, and a Medical Geneticist Locator. The educational and public health programs of the American College of Medical Genetics are dependent upon charitable gifts from corporations, foundations, and individuals. **The American College of Medical Genetics Foundation** (www.acmgfoundation.org) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to funding the College's diverse efforts to translate genes into health.

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