

Maintaining Certification in Interventional Cardiology: What Interventionalists Need to Know

More than 2,500 interventional cardiologists achieved certification when the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) established board certification in their subspecialty in 1999. Physicians in this first class of board-certified interventional cardiologists should now be completing the requirements to maintain their certification, which will expire Dec. 31, 2009. Among the requirements, physicians must hold an unrestricted medical license and be in good standing. In addition, interventional cardiologists must submit a Form Attesting to Interventional Cardiology Practice, verifying their performance as primary operator, co-operator, or supervisor of 150 percutaneous coronary interventional (PCI) cases in the two years prior to the expiration of the certificate.

Interventional cardiologists also must have a valid certificate in cardiovascular disease. Fortunately, for those who have time-limited cardiovascular disease certificates, fulfillment of ABIM's requirement for self-evaluation of medical knowledge and practice performance can count

SCAI Helps You Prepare for Board Recertification

For physicians working to complete their Board recertification requirements, as well as those preparing for initial certification in interventional cardiology, SCAI will again offer its highly regarded Board Review course. Delivered in partnership with the American College of Cardiology Foundation, the **Premier Interventional Cardiology and Board Preparatory Course** will be held Aug. 22–24, 2008, in Dallas, TX.



Joseph D. Babb,
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This year's program will feature time dedicated to the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements, says Board Review Co-director and SCAI Past President Joseph D. Babb, M.D., FSCAI, FACC. "SCAI is eager to help its members prepare for and successfully complete the MOC requirements. At the Board Review course, attendees

will have access to an expert faculty, many with past experience in writing questions for the Board exams."

Dr. Babb's co-chair is James E. Tcheng, M.D., FACC, FSCAI. The program includes an in-depth, comprehensive review of interventional cardiology, including an unbiased and up-to-date, evidence-based study of basic science, pharmacology, imaging, and procedural selection and technique. In addition, attendees will benefit from discussions of the ABIM exam guidelines and question-and-answer sessions liberally interspersed in the program.

For more information on the Board Review course, visit http://www.scai.org/drlt1.aspx?PAGE_ID=5143, or call 800-992-7224.

For More Information...

To enroll in Maintenance of Certification, visit ABIM's website, www.abim.org and click on the "Physician Login."

Complete program details, including registration periods and exam dates, are available at www.abim.org. Click on "Get Information by Subspecialty" on the home page, select "Interventional Cardiology," and then view the program components under "Maintenance of Certification." Physicians may enroll and start working toward the self-evaluation requirements beginning immediately. Exams are offered in the spring and fall each year and can be taken from the sixth to tenth year of certification.

toward the renewal of both certificates. Physicians must pass separate exams in interventional cardiology and cardiovascular disease; however, both exams can be taken in the same spring or fall examination period.

To meet the self-evaluation requirement, physicians must earn 100 points of self-evaluation in two areas, medical knowledge (minimum of 20 points) and practice performance (minimum of 20 points). Medical knowledge modules, which test clinical and practical knowledge, are available for interventional cardiology and cardiovascular disease; point credit is earned when a module is completed successfully. Another option to earn credit is to complete the Interventional Cardiology Simulations, the ABIM-developed catheterization lab simulation that provides an opportunity to perform procedures that interventional cardiologists typically encounter in practice. For information about medical simulations, visit the Self-Evaluation of Medical Knowledge page at www.abim.org.

Physicians must also complete at least one of ABIM's PIM Practice Improvement Modules, which enables them to examine their interventional cardiology practice and identify opportunities for improvement. Several options are available to earn practice performance credit, including the Preventive Cardiology PIM, the Communication with Referring Physicians PIM, the Self-Directed PIM using ACC-NCDR measures, and the ACC "Door-to-Balloon" (D2B) Time Initiative. Details for each option are in the "Improve your practice with PIMs" section of www.abim.org.

Because the self-evaluation points are good for 10 years, they can be applied toward the renewal of both the interventional cardiology and cardiovascular disease certificates as long as the points are still valid when each certificate expires. In addition, many health plans are now recognizing and rewarding physicians who complete PIMs and maintain their certification.

Physicians participating in Maintenance of Certification can receive CME credit for completing the self-evaluation modules and preparing to pass the exam. ■