ABIM Maintenance of Certification Points Now Offered to QOPI® Participants and Physicians at QOPI Certified Practices

ASCO’s Quality Improvement Programs Support Physicians Working to Meet Quality and Safety Standards in Cancer Care

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Contact
Julianne Lee
571-483-1381
Julianne.Lee@asco.org

ALEXANDRIA, VA – A new collaboration between the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) will enable participants of ASCO’s Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI®) and the QOPI Certification Program (QCP) to receive Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Practice Assessment points from ABIM.

“QOPI not only helps practices improve the quality of care they deliver to their patients, but now this quality improvement program makes maintaining certification simpler and easier as well,” said ASCO President Daniel F. Hayes, MD, FACP, FASCO. “We are pleased to be able to provide this opportunity to QOPI participants in partnership with the ABIM.”

In addition to receiving ABIM Practice Assessment MOC points, QOPI participants can separately receive credit in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Improvement Activities category. Participants can attest to meaningfully participating in these quality improvement activities as part of this new benefit.

“Through use of QOPI and the QOPI Certification Program, oncologists are working to assess and improve the quality of cancer care based on standards developed by clinicians,” said
Richard J. Baron, MD, President and CEO of ABIM. “We are excited to be working with ASCO’s program to provide MOC points for activities that benefit patients dealing with a serious disease.”

QOPI® is a voluntary self-assessment and improvement program launched by ASCO® in 2006 to assist hematology-oncology and medical oncology practices assess the quality of the care they provide to patients. Through the QOPI® program, practices abstract data from patients’ medical records up to twice per year and enter this information into a secure database. More than 900 oncology practices have registered for the QOPI® program.

The QOPI Certification Program was launched in January 2010, and more than 300 practices are currently certified. This oncology specialty certification for outpatient oncology practices is the first program of its kind in the United States. Oncologists achieve certification by participating in a voluntary comprehensive site assessment against clearly specified standards that are consistent with national guidelines. The QOPI Certified seal designates those practices that successfully met the standards and objectives of the QOPI Certification Program, which includes scoring above the threshold on the key QOPI quality measures and meeting chemotherapy safety standards established by ASCO and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

QOPI® analyzes individual practice data and compares these to more than 160 evidence-based and consensus driven quality measures. The practice information is then provided in reports to participating practices. Individual practices are able to compare their performance scores to data from other practices across the country. Based on this feedback, physicians and practices are able to identify areas for improvement.

To become certified, practices have to submit an evaluation of their entire practice and documentation of concordance to the standards. The QOPI Certification Program staff and Oversight Committee members then verify through on-site inspection that the evaluation and documents are correct and the practice has met the core standards in areas of treatment, including:

- treatment planning;
- staff training and education;
- chemotherapy orders and drug preparation;
- patient consent and education;
- safe chemotherapy administration;
- monitoring and assessment of patient well-being.

For more information on ABIM MOC, eligibility and requirements please visit:
https://elearning.asco.org/product-details/moc-program

**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO®) is committed to making a world of difference in cancer care. As the world’s leading organization of its kind, ASCO represents more than 40,000 oncology professionals who care for people living with cancer. Through research, education, and promotion of the highest-quality patient care, ASCO works to conquer cancer and create a world where cancer is prevented or cured, and every survivor is healthy. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation. Learn more at www.ASCO.org, explore patient education resources at www.Cancer.Net, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Cancer-related policy developments can be found at ascoaction.asco.org.

**About QOPI Certification Program, LLC**

QOPI Certification Program, LLC is an ASCO affiliate dedicated to innovative quality improvement programs for ASCO members and their patients and is committed to providing oncologists with the necessary resources to provide every patient with high-level cancer care.

**About ABIM**

For 80 years, certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) has stood for the highest standard in internal medicine and its 20 subspecialties and has meant that internists have demonstrated—to their peers and to the public—that they have the clinical judgment, skills and attitudes essential for the delivery of excellent patient care. ABIM is not a membership society, but a non-profit, independent evaluation organization. Our accountability is both to the profession of medicine and to the public. ABIM is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties. For additional updates, follow ABIM on Facebook and Twitter.