CPD Credits for Assessors and physicians who participate in assessment programs

Maintenance of Certification (MOC): A Professional Development Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Overview
What is MOC?
The objectives of the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program are to ensure that Fellows are engaged in professional development endeavors that are directed at enhancing the quality of specialty care and to provide standard documentation for Fellows to demonstrate their participation in professional development activities for the purposes such as licensure or privileges to practice.

Individual physicians have flexibility to design their own program of professional development based on practice needs and using their preferred learning methods. Identifying your needs will come from a variety of sources: the physician’s practice challenges, feedback from patients and health care colleagues, or assessments of competence and performance that may be conducted external to the physician’s practice.

What are the CPSO’s Quality Management Assessment Programs?
The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario has several quality management type assessment programs within the Practice Assessment and Enhancement Department including Peer, Independent Health Facilities, Out of Hospital Premises Inspection and Methadone Maintenance Therapy. Assessors in these programs review the practice of more than 2600 physicians each year. The purpose of the programs are to assure the public that doctors are providing quality patient care, and also to provide constructive feedback about practice that will stimulate the physician to engage in self-reflection, to search for new ideas and evidence, and make changes to the ways in which they manage patient care. Assessments are an applied form of quality improvement in medicine. Every doctor deserves regular feedback from a variety of sources about how they are doing, and every physician can identify opportunities for improvement in one or more areas of their practice. The purpose of the CPSO’s Quality Management Programs is complementary to the RCPSC’s MOC Program.

How Can I Achieve MOC Credits by Participating in CPSO’s Quality Management Assessment Programs?
As a Physician Being Assessed:
The MOC Program enables participants to accumulate credits based on diverse types of professional development. Three sections of continuing professional development (CPD) are available. Participants may achieve credits for attending educational rounds or conferences, reading journals, or participating in educational programs via the internet. In addition, self-
assessment and practice assessments are encouraged as other ways for participants in MOC to understand their practice and to identify opportunities for improvement.

By participating in the CPSO’s Quality Management Assessment Program as a physician being assessed, members of the RCPSC can document their CPD under Section 3: Assessment. Section 3 allows each member to obtain 3 credits per hour of activity. The RCPSC has developed a user-friendly website for physicians to document and track their CPD.

www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cpd/moc-program/about-mainport-eportfolio-e

As an Assessor:
As an assessor in the quality management assessment process you are able to claim credits if you are stimulated to ask a question related to your own practice and then follow that up with some sort of educational activity related to that question. In most cases, this would be a Section 2 activity through a Personal Learning Project and credits can be submitted accordingly. Of course if that question results in you undertaking your own practice audit, then credits can be claimed under Section 3.

The RCPSC is also able to provide more information to physicians about MOC and the details pertaining to Section 3, practice audits, and how to document participation in a PA&E assessment.

Remember, the CPSO’s Quality Management Assessment Programs are recognized as a valuable professional development opportunity and Fellows of the RCPSC can claim credits by participating and using the feedback to improve one or more components of their practice.

What About Participating as an Inspector for the Registrar or ICRC?
As we have the privilege of being a self-regulated profession the CPSO is required to call upon members of the profession to opine upon cases that have come to the attention of the CPSO either due to patient complaints or through the attention of other health care professionals. In these circumstances we depend upon physicians to make a judgment as to whether or not the standard of care was met in the cases brought to the attention of the CPSO. Physicians may be asked to make a judgment on a single case or more broadly explore a physician’s practice. Their independent opinions are then put forth to a committee of several peers as well as lay people to ultimately decide on the disposition of each matter. The integrity of this process is essential to maintain our status as a self-regulated profession.

As with a Quality Management Assessment, if you are performing an inspection of a physician’s practice and something stimulates a question for your own practice, you can claim credits under Section 3 if you pursue a Personal Learning Project.

As a Physician who has Undergone an Investigation by the ICRC:
Practice improvement opportunities may have been identified. In which case the physician has the option to develop a Personal Learning Plan and may claim credits under Section 2.

Where Can I Get More Information?
The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
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