



Comments from the MOC Part 4 Development Team

National Perinatal Information Center/Quality Analytic Services (NPIC/QAS) spent close to a year working with neonatologists from our Board of Directors and the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) to develop a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 4 collaborative program that responds to the MOC requirements and spirit of quality improvement through collaboration, data sharing, and analysis.

Here's what physician members of the development team have to say about MOC and our collaborative:

A message from our MOC Part 4 Project Leader:

"As a long-standing member of the Board of NPIC/QAS, I have been impressed by the ability of NPIC/QAS to collect, verify, synthesize, and analyze perinatal data and present these analyses to its member hospitals' quality improvement and administrative teams. Now, utilization of such data is needed not only for hospitals' quality improvement and regulatory requirements, but also for physicians' maintenance of certification. NPIC/QAS's large combined clinical and administrative database can be used to support collaborative projects allowing neonatologists to combine their participation in institutional quality improvement with maintenance of certification. We worked with the ABP to define this first collaboration on late preterm birth. It is an example of a common situation with:

- *significant impact on physicians, patients, and institutions*
- *published recommendations applicable to physicians and to hospital staff, and*
- *process elements and outcomes that are measurable*

Using the NPIC/QAS baseline data set along with a limited amount of project-related data collection, participating professionals will spend the majority of their time using these data to demonstrate impact from the application of a plan-do-study-act cycle that they devise to address the discharge of late preterm born infants at their institutions.

We see NPIC/QAS as a partner with institutions (and their physicians) in developing efficient and meaningful projects in quality improvement that lead to better patient outcomes and also facilitate physicians' certification requirements."

*John V. Hartline, MD (Project Leader)
Neonatologist, Clinical Professor, Pediatrics (retired)
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine*

Comments from the physician members of our MOC Part 4 Development Team:

"In this era of safety and quality initiatives to improve health care outcomes, the development of MOC clinical improvement programs for perinatal care services is a welcome addition to the ongoing education and credentialing of physicians providing care to mothers and infants. These programs are establishing the foundation for improved safety and risk reduction in centers that provide maternal and newborn care, and successful local efforts should be portable to other institutions to provide similar improvements in clinical management and outcomes."

*John J. Botti, MD
Acting Director of MFM Fellowship
Wake Forest University Health Sciences
Winston-Salem, NC*

"Maintenance of certification is another requirement for busy neonatologists to fulfill. NPIC/QAS offers an approved project that impacts a national problem of significance. The simple and straightforward format and the support of the project by the sophisticated NPIC/QAS database make fulfilling the MOC requirement meaningful and efficient work."

*Marilyn B. Escobedo, MD
Reba McEntire Endowed Chair in Neonatology
Director of Section of Neonatal Perinatal Medicine
OU Children's Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK*

"The translation of clinical research and best practices to the bedside represents an enormous gap in our ability to provide high quality perinatal care. Increasingly health quality agencies, healthcare payers, healthcare systems and now the American Board of Pediatrics are recognizing the need to formally incorporate such translation into daily practice. The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) now requires that perinatal care providers, including general pediatricians and neonatologists, seeking to maintain certification (MOC Part 4) in their specialty document participation in Board approved quality improvement projects.

NPIC/QAS proudly announces the establishment of our Neonatal-Perinatal MOC Program. NPIC/QAS's mission is built on a foundation of commitment to improving perinatal care systems. Our tradition of support for such efforts has included formal education and superior data analysis. We have synthesized these elements into a quality improvement program aimed at enhancing perinatal quality and safety at your institution. This program will employ quality improvement methodology in a nationwide collaborative of hospitals committed to identifying supports, barriers and small changes which can be made to achieve project goals.

NPIC/QAS's MOC Program will offer an opportunity to perform meaningful work on critical perinatal issues at your hospital. The MOC Program is a team based approach which incorporates physician, nursing, ancillary service and family support. Action plans have been developed and are packaged for deployment at your facility. NPIC/QAS will schedule and support learning webinars for all team members. In addition we will supply lean data reports

which allow teams to address issues related to improvement at their facility. The NPIC/QAS MOC Program will capitalize on collaborative learning opportunities realized by partnering with other facilities committed to the same improvements.

While the development of MOC Part 4 is a welcome addition to the ongoing education and credentialing of physicians providing care to mothers and infants, satisfying this requirement will require hospitals to partner with organizations capable of offering ABP approved quality improvement projects. All NPIC/QAS MOC Programs are ABP approved; and NPIC/QAS's commitment to hospitals considering enrollment in our MOC Program is value. We pledge to offer participating teams the opportunity to improve in critical perinatal areas while supplying hospitals and their physician participants a clear path to obtaining the credit necessary for MOC Part 4.

We look forward to you joining with us and other healthcare organizations as we continue our quest to advance value, quality, safety and best practice in perinatal health.”

*Martin J. McCaffrey, MD
Associate Professor
UNC Hospital, Pediatric Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Chapel Hill, NC*

“Integrating Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for neonatologists with NPIC/QAS is a progressive and positive development. Utilization of the NPIC/QAS database is a clear example of constructive data use. This program offers a positive and productive experience for the individual neonatologist, the hospital where that person cares for babies, and the greater perinatal community through quality improvement; the entire system of care benefits.”

*George A. Little, MD
Professor of Pediatrics & Obstetrics
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, NH*