Claim MOC Credit for QI Work You're Already Doing

Pediatricians are committed to providing the best care for their patients and to making that care better every day. Thousands of physicians have used online tools, like American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) Performance Improvement Modules (PIMs) and AAP EQIPP modules to help with improvement and to meet Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. The AAP’s PediaLink QI system can also be used to build and manage small-group QI projects for MOC credit. These online tools and modules can be great ways to learn the QI process, but many pediatricians are already doing important QI work, including those projects facilitated by the AAP, in their practices. How can pediatricians claim credit for the quality improvement work they’re already doing?

In addition to the numerous ways in which pediatricians can earn credit through the AAP (see sidebar) and in an effort to continue to offer a wider range of meaningful and practical ways to meet MOC requirements for Improving Professional Practice (Part 4), the ABP has developed simple online applications for pediatricians to report the QI work that they originate where they practice.

For Small Groups

The application – called the Small Group QI Project Application -- is designed specifically for QI teams involving 1-10 pediatricians. Once a QI project is complete, the diplomate leading the project submits a Small Group QI Project Application on behalf of the group. When the project is approved, each participating physician then earns 25 Part 4 points. There is a fee of $75 per project (not per person). Now you can finish your QI project, submit your Small Group QI Project Application and claim your credit!

For the Larger Groups

For those QI teams that include more than 10 pediatricians, the ABP offers a slightly altered version of the Small Group application. The QI Project Application, which is appropriate for long term, ongoing QI projects, is designed for organizations whose QI teams include 11 or more pediatricians. This application costs $250 for the entire team and earns each participant (no maximum) 25 Part 4 points.
Credit can be awarded each time a member of the QI team can attest to meaningful participation -- meaning one project can result in multiple opportunities for its participants to claim MOC credit for their work!

For Those Who’ve Earned NCQA Recognition

MOC Part 4 credit can also be claimed if a practice has earned National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) recognition for either Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) or Patient-Centered Specialty Practice (PCSP).

The ABP recognizes the rigorous QI efforts necessary to obtain such recognition. Individual physicians, at no additional charge, can claim 40 Part 4 points if they have meaningfully participated in earning NCQA-PCMH or NCQA-PCSP recognition based on either 2011 or 2014 standards.

For Those Leading Institutions in QI Work

Those individuals with expertise in quality improvement science who are in positions to lead institutional quality improvement initiatives – such as Vice President of Quality/Safety, or a Chief Quality Officer – can claim 40 Part 4 points for their leadership activities. The QI Program Development application is designed specifically for those developing and leading macro-level QI programs (not necessarily projects) within an organization.

For Organizations Sponsoring QI Projects

Organizations that are sponsoring three or more QI projects within a two-year period may apply to become a Portfolio Sponsor. This role as sponsor allows the organization to oversee multiple, simultaneously-running QI projects and approve qualifying projects for 25 Part 4 points. The Portfolio Sponsor is responsible for submitting a progress report to the ABP for each approved project.

Did you know the AAP is a Portfolio Sponsor? The AAP reviews and approves its own QI Projects, based on ABP MOC standards, and then awards credit for participation.