In March 2000, the twenty-four member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) formally agreed that all boards would develop programs for Maintenance of Certification (MOC). In some cases, MOC would be replacing existing or evolving programs for recertification of diplomates. As initiated by The ABR in 2002, certification in the 3 categories of Radiologic Physics (Diagnostic Radiologic Physics, Therapeutic Radiologic Physics, and Medical Nuclear Physics) is time limited to 10 years. To retain certification beyond that period, the individual must engage in The ABR MOC for medical physicists. Under the ABMS format, MOC has 4 components: 1.) Professional Standing, 2.) Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment, 3.) Cognitive Expertise, and 4.) Practice Performance. For medical physicists, professional standing will be evaluated through letters of attestation and designated applicable documentation. Life Long Learning entails requirements for CME Category 1 credits and involvement in Self Directed Educational Projects (substituting for the traditional Category 2 credit process) while Self-Assessment requires the individual to evaluate their progress at intervals within the 10-year cycle. Cognitive expertise will be assessed through a series of web-based, proctored, timed, open-book format examinations involving a.) core knowledge fundamental to the practice of radiological physics, and b.) new updated information and emerging technology. Practice Performance assessment methodologies for medical physicists are evolving (as they are for our physician colleagues) and will involve consideration of basic competencies including, for example, practice knowledge, patient care, and interpersonal & communication skills. The intent is to establish a web-based, password-protected system for maintaining documentation and facilitating record keeping for the MOC process. All information required would be submitted to The ABR in the final year before expiration of the certificate. Upon positive review, a 10-year extension of certification would be issued. This presentation will discuss specific details of the 4 MOC components and outline the procedures being implemented to facilitate the MOC process for medical physicists.

Educational Objectives:

1. To understand the components of The ABR MOC program as required for medical physicists.
2. To understand the process by which the medical physicists may complete The ABR MOC program.