

Physicians Face Expiration of Board Certification

For the first time ever, many U.S. physicians are facing the necessity of taking board re-certification exams. In the past, physicians were issued lifetime certification without renewal requirements; however, in recent years, the member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) have begun instituting a continuing education and re-certification program, requiring that certified physicians renew their certification every six to ten years.¹ While some sub-specialty boards began issuing time-limited certification as early as the late 1980's, others did not implement until much later (e.g., Diagnostic Radiology – 2002).² Although many older physicians were “grandfathered” in and are not required to obtain re-certification, they are also suggested to undergo the renewal process.³

Board certification is not required of U.S. physicians in order to practice their chosen specialty. However, it has become the gold standard for demonstrating expertise and commitment in their field to patients, providers, insurance companies, and quality organizations across the nation.⁴ In 2000, the 24 member specialty boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) agreed to a universal recertification program for all medical specialties, the ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (MOC), which was formally approved in 2006. The MOC evaluates physician expertise in six core competencies: (1) patient care; (2) interpersonal and communication skills; (3) medical knowledge; (4) practice-based learning; (5) systems-based practice; and, (6) professionalism, which are measured using a four-part process.⁵

Although the ABMS MOC® has only been implemented in the last few years, it is rapidly gaining momentum. Most recently, the healthcare reform bills passed in March 2010 state that participation in MOC by physicians can fulfill the requirements of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), a reporting system by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which provides an incentive payment to physicians who report quality data for professional services provided to Medicare beneficiaries, set to begin in 2011.⁶

¹ “What Board Certification Means”, by American Board of Medical Specialties, http://www.abms.org/About_Board_Certification/means.aspx (Accessed 4/22/10)

² “Considering Recertification”, by Jeffrey M. Drazen and Debra F. Weinstein, *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 362, No. 10, May 19, 2010, p. 946; “Maintenance of Certification: Diagnostic Radiology”, the American Board of Radiology, http://theabr.org/moc/moc_faq_who.html (Accessed 5/19/10)

³ “Doctors Face Board Specialty „Expiration Dates“”, by Mariynn Marchione, *Huffington Post*, April 5, 2010, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/04/07/doctors-face-board-specia_n_528351.html (Accessed 4/22/10)

⁴ “What Board Certification Means”, by American Board of Medical Specialties, http://www.abms.org/About_Board_Certification/means.aspx (Accessed 4/22/10)

⁵ “ABMS Maintenance of Certification®”, American Board of Medical Specialties, http://www.abms.org/Maintenance_of_Certification/ABMS_MO_C.aspx (Accessed 4/22/10)

⁶ “ABMS MOC Included in Health Care Bill as Option to Assess Physician Quality”, American Board of Medical Specialties, March 23, 2010, https://www.abms.org/News_and_Events/Media_Newsroom/Releases/release_ABMSMOCInHlthcareBill_03232010.aspx (Accessed 4/22/10)



(800) FYI - VALU

*Providing Solutions
in the Era of
Healthcare Reform*

Founded in 1993, HCC is a
nationally recognized healthcare
economic financial consulting firm

- [HCC Home](#)
- [Firm Profile](#)
- [HCC Services](#)
- [HCC Experts](#)
- [Clients Projects](#)
- [HCC News](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Email Us](#)

HEALTH CAPITAL CONSULTANTS (HCC) is an established, nationally recognized healthcare financial and economic consulting firm headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, with regional personnel nationwide. Founded in 1993, HCC has served clients in over 45 states, in providing services including: valuation in all healthcare sectors; financial analysis, including the development of forecasts, budgets and income distribution plans; healthcare provider related intermediary services, including integration, affiliation, acquisition and divestiture; Certificate of Need (CON) and regulatory consulting; litigation support and expert witness services; and, industry research services for healthcare providers and their advisors. HCC's accredited professionals are supported by an experienced research and library support staff to maintain a thorough and extensive knowledge of the healthcare reimbursement, regulatory, technological and competitive environment.



Robert James Cimasi, MHA, ASA, FRICS, MCBA, AVA, CM&AA, serves as President of **HEALTH CAPITAL CONSULTANTS (HCC)**, a nationally recognized healthcare financial and economic consulting firm headquartered in St. Louis, MO, serving clients in 49 states since 1993. Mr. Cimasi has over thirty years of experience in serving clients, with a professional focus on the financial and economic aspects of healthcare service sector entities including: valuation consulting and capital formation services; healthcare industry transactions including joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures; litigation support & expert testimony; and, certificate-of-need and other regulatory and policy planning consulting.

Mr. Cimasi holds a Masters in Health Administration from the University of Maryland, as well as several professional designations: Accredited Senior Appraiser (ASA – American Society of Appraisers); Fellow Royal Intuition of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS – Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors); Master Certified Business Appraiser (MCBA – Institute of Business Appraisers); Accredited Valuation Analyst (AVA – National Association of Certified Valuators and Analysts); and, Certified Merger & Acquisition Advisor (CM&AA – Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors). He has served as an expert witness on cases in numerous courts, and has provided testimony before federal and state legislative committees. He is a nationally known speaker on healthcare industry topics, the author of several books, the latest of which include: *“The U.S. Healthcare Certificate of Need Sourcebook”* [2005 - Beard Books], *“An Exciting Insight into the Healthcare Industry and Medical Practice Valuation”* [2002 – AICPA], and *“A Guide to Consulting Services for Emerging Healthcare Organizations”* [1999 John Wiley and Sons].

Mr. Cimasi is the author of numerous additional chapters in anthologies; books, and legal treatises; published articles in peer reviewed and industry trade journals; research papers and case studies; and, is often quoted by healthcare industry press. In 2006, Mr. Cimasi was honored with the prestigious *“Shannon Pratt Award in Business Valuation”* conferred by the Institute of Business Appraisers. Mr. Cimasi serves on the Editorial Board of the Business Appraisals Practice of the Institute of Business Appraisers, of which he is a member of the College of Fellows.



Todd A. Zigrang, MBA, MHA, ASA, FACHE, is the Senior Vice President of **HEALTH CAPITAL CONSULTANTS (HCC)**, where he focuses on the areas valuation and financial analysis for hospitals and other healthcare enterprises. Mr. Zigrang has significant physician integration and financial analysis experience, and has participated in the development of a physician-owned multi-specialty MSO and networks involving a wide range of specialties; physician-owned hospitals, as well as several limited liability companies for the purpose of acquiring acute care and specialty hospitals, ASCs and other ancillary facilities; participated in the evaluation and negotiation of managed care contracts, performed and assisted in the valuation of various healthcare entities and related litigation support engagements; created pro-forma financials; written business plans; conducted a range of industry research; completed due diligence practice analysis; overseen the selection process for vendors, contractors, and architects; and, worked on the arrangement of financing.

Mr. Zigrang holds a Master of Science in Health Administration and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has co-authored *“Research and Financial Benchmarking in the Healthcare Industry”* (STP Financial Management) and *“Healthcare Industry Research and its Application in Financial Consulting”* (Aspen Publishers). He has additionally taught before the Institute of Business Appraisers and CPA Leadership Institute, and has presented healthcare industry valuation related research papers before the Healthcare Financial Management Association; the National CPA Health Care Adviser's Association; Association for Corporate Growth; Infocast Executive Education Series; the St. Louis Business Valuation Roundtable; and, Physician Hospitals of America.



Anne P. Sharamitaro, Esq., is the Vice President of **HEALTH CAPITAL CONSULTANTS (HCC)**, where she focuses on the areas of Certificate of Need (CON); regulatory compliance, managed care, and antitrust consulting. Ms. Sharamitaro is a member of the Missouri Bar and holds a J.D. and Health Law Certificate from Saint Louis University School of Law, where she served as an editor for the *Journal of Health Law*, published by the American Health Lawyers Association. She has presented healthcare industry related research papers before Physician Hospitals of America and the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts and co-authored chapters in *“Healthcare Organizations: Financial Management Strategies,”* published in 2008.