Impact of Restructuring MOC Component 4 in Dermatology: Physician-reported outcomes resulting from the ABD Focused Practice Improvement Modules

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OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the relevance to practice of the FPI modules to dermatologists of all subspecialty types
2. To determine the utility of the FPI modules in identifying local practice gaps in dermatology
3. To determine the reported dermatologist practice changes resulting from the FPI modules
4. To determine physician-reported patient outcomes related to the FPI modules
5. To determine the distribution of participants and subspecialties participating in FPI modules

METHODS

We reviewed responses to online surveys completed by ABD diplomates after they had concluded 1 or more of 48 online FPI activities from February 8, 2016 through May 22, 2018. The survey questions asked whether the participating dermatologist:

1. thought the FPI module was relevant (yes or no),
2. changed documentation or management (yes, no, or it reaffirmed what I was already doing),
3. improved care (yes, no, or it reaffirmed what I was already doing),
4. believed any patient experienced better outcomes (yes, no, or unknown/too early to tell), and
5. recommends the FPI module to others (yes or no).

Participants were informed that the survey was anonymous. This study was exempt from formal review by the Marshfield Clinic Health System Institutional Review Board.

RESULTS

During the study period, 5,012 FPI activities were completed in 48 modules. The Table lists the FPI modules that were started and completed. Of those dermatologists completing the FPI activities, 1,671 (34.3%) identified practice gaps and implemented an intervention and a rereasurement phase. Of the 4,872 dermatologists, 4,023 (82.9%) assessed the activities as relevant. Most dermatologists (4,095 (84.4%)) reported that the modules reaffirmed their current management, whereas 754 (15.0%) reported that the modules helped change their practice. Eight hundred sixty-six (17.3%) changed their care documentation habits, 1,042 (20.8%) believed care improved, and 1,109 (22.1%) reported that at least 1 patient experienced better outcomes because they completed the FPI modules. Four thousand eight hundred fifty dermatologists (96.8%) would recommend the FPI modules to other dermatologists.

CONCLUSION

The ABD’s FPI pilot program has been successful and has led to practice-changing relevant education at no additional cost for diplomates. Expanding and maintaining relevance and timeliness of the FPI modules for the field remains a priority for the ABD.