Affiliations with Other Organizations for Approving Part IV MOC

R. Van Harrison, PhD
Professor, Department of Learning Health Sciences
Co-Lead, University of Michigan Part IV MOC Portfolio Program

Disclaimer: views are my own best assessments.
Preview: Reflection and Application

By yourself
What were the most important insights of this session?
How will you apply them at home?

Pair/share (two person pairs)
Share your insights and plans.

Share illustrations (large group)
Examples of insights and plans.
Overview

Purpose: Implement/manage affiliation arrangements for Part IV MOC.

Content:

1. ABMS Portfolio Program
   • Physician relationships
   • Organizational affiliations
2. Roles within Portfolio Sponsor
3. Examples of affiliate orgs.
4. Value/priority of org. affiliation
5. Nature of org. affiliation
6. Oversight Relationships
7. Agreements
8. Managing Affiliations

Plan for Session:

a. Participants: why are you here?
b. Introduce content to consider (1-8), participants elaborate
c. Small groups: consider two cases suggested by group members
d. Debrief/share highlights in large group
e. Reflection and application – pair/share, examples in large group
Affiliation Relationships:
Why Are You Here?

Introductions

Why and what at do you want to learn?

Does your institution have

• Relationships with external physicians for QI?
• Organizational affiliations for QI?

What problems/questions have you encountered?
ABMS Portfolio Program

Shifting view of organizational affiliations

Previously
Initial prohibition – afraid of “Part IV MOC mills.”
Trial of standard agreements – to be approved by ABMS Program.

For some time
Flexibility – within requirements. *(No formal audit program.)*

Near future?
Encouragement? – expand scope/benefit of Portfolio Program?
Affiliate Physicians

1. A documented relationship [not formal agreement] must exist between the physician and the Program Sponsor.

2. Participation is only valid in an initiative that is under the supervision of an approved Program Sponsor.

3. The physician must grant the Program Sponsor the authority to resolve disputes regarding meaningful participation.

4. A physician in an affiliated organization can:
   - participate in an initiative led by someone within the Program Sponsor organization or
   - co-lead an activity with someone within the Program Sponsor organization.
Affiliate Organizations

1. A formal agreement must exist between the Program Sponsor and the additional organization(s).

2. The organizations must share a commitment to QI/PI and support of MOC.

3. An identified person or team from the approved Program Sponsor must be responsible for overseeing the approved initiative(s) and the attestation process.

4. A process must be agreed upon for identification and prioritization of organizational quality improvement activities across the affiliated entities that would qualify for MOC credit.

5. The requirements for meaningful participation in an approved initiative must be the same across the involved organizations.

6. The affiliate organization must agree that final adjudication of disputes rests with the sponsor organization.
### ABMS Portfolio Program, cont.

Documenting Organizational Affiliations and Physician Relationships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibility for directly conducting QI effort</th>
<th>Portfolio sponsor’s employees</th>
<th>Org. affiliate’s employees</th>
<th>Other Physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio sponsor directly conducts</td>
<td>(no additional documentation)</td>
<td>(rare)</td>
<td>Physician relationship to portfolio sponsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Org. affiliate conducts with portfolio sponsor oversight</td>
<td>(rare) Org. affiliation to portfolio sponsor</td>
<td>Org. affiliation to portfolio sponsor</td>
<td>Org. affiliation to portfolio sponsor documented AND Physician relationship to org. affiliate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If portfolio sponsor and org. affiliate jointly supervise, can treat as only portfolio sponsor supervising.
Roles within Portfolio Sponsor

Organizational affiliations:
- Who can establish them?
- Who can manage them?

Relationships with individual external physicians:
- Who can establish them?
- Who can manage them?

Organizational levels and units
- System level roles – e.g., system president and officers
- Clinical delivery components – e.g., hospital, medical group
- Clinical departments – e.g., Surgery
- Special units – e.g., coordinating improvement consortia
- Others?

Role of Portfolio Program unit?
Examples of Affiliate Organizations

- Accountable Care Org partners
- Contracted partner organizations in providing specialty care
- Other health professions schools/colleges within university
- Regional/national specialty collaboratives
- Research/care improvement organizations

Others?
Do the following involve affiliate organizations?

Grant to faculty member in institution sponsoring Portfolio Program to perform QI research in community practices for which Part IV MOC is approved.

Externally funded statewide consortium of hospitals to improve patient safety that is managed by an institution sponsoring a Portfolio Program and approving Part IV MOC.

“Captured” VA hospital/system where physicians also have academic appointments in an institution sponsoring a Portfolio Program and approving Part IV MOC.
Value Proposition (cost/benefit) of Org. Affiliation for Part IV MOC to:

Your institution?
Your Portfolio Sponsor Program?
Potential affiliate organization?
Physicians in affiliate organization?
Patients?
Other?
Nature of the Org. Affiliation, examples

Purpose: clinical, clinical education, clinical research

Structure: one organization, multiple organization entity

Scope: broad range of clinical areas, specific clinical area

Time frame: long term, short term, one time

Finances: direct – interrelated, independent
indirect – services exchanged, other arrangements
Oversight Relationships

Institutional: Previously existing oversight
New ongoing oversight
Special infrastructure

QI effort: Employees or volunteers

Structure: Accountability and monitoring

Enforcement: Withhold Part IV
Other?
Organizational Agreements

Elements to be able to document

1. A formal agreement exists between the Program Sponsor and the additional organization(s).

2. Shared commitment to QI/PI (and support of MOC).

3. Person or team from the approved Program Sponsor to be responsible for overseeing the approved initiative(s) and the attestation process.

4. Process for identifying and prioritizing organizational quality improvement activities across the affiliated entities that will qualify for MOC credit.

5. Requirements for meaningful participation in an approved initiative are the same across the involved organizations.

6. The affiliate organization agrees that final adjudication of disputes rests with the sponsor organization.
Organizational Agreements, cont.

Do all of the elements have to:
- Exist in one document?
- Be addressed at one time?
- Utilize specified wording?

Will documentation differ by nature of relationship?
- Purpose
- Structure
- Scope
- Time frame
Organizational Agreements, cont.

Suggestion: for each QI effort involving affiliate organizations, if needed, are you able to assemble document(s) showing:

Organizational level
  Purpose of the relationship and institutional roles
  Individuals with oversight responsibility from each institution
  Activities will be conducted to meet requirements of ABMS Portfolio Program

QI effort level [routine for all QI efforts and their documentation]
  Purpose of QI effort
  Individuals with responsibility from each institution
  Funding sources for activity

Part IV MOC finances – costs and payments for approval and reporting
Managing Affiliations for Part IV MOC

Organizational Affiliation
- Evolving relationships between organizations
- Changing leaders and priorities

QI Effort
- Leader understanding requirements for MOC approval
- Changes to QI efforts

Part IV MOC Documentation
- QI effort description (by whom)
- Attestation process (local infrastructures)
Apply Concepts – Small Groups

1. Identify examples of affiliation arrangements (existing or potential).

2. Select 1 or 2 examples/cases to discuss.

3. Consider (using concepts presented):
   • Actual or potential issues with affiliation for Part IV?
   • Ways to prospectively anticipate and address?

4. Identify issues and ways to share.
Apply Concepts – Report Out

Share interesting/helpful illustrations

• What is the example/case?
• Actual or potential issues with affiliation for Part IV?
• Ways to prospectively anticipate and address?
Reflection and Application

By yourself

What were the most important insights of this session?
How will you apply them at home?

Pair/share (two person pairs)

Share your insights and plans.

Share illustrations (large group)

Examples of insights and plans.
Questions?

Thanks!