



NEWS RELEASE

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**MONROE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY JOINS THE AMERICAN BOARD OF
MEDICAL SPECIALTIES' MULTI-SPECIALTY PORTFOLIO PROGRAM**

**Program Offers Society's Members an Opportunity to Maintain Board Certification
and Improve Patient Health and Safety throughout Upstate New York**

CHICAGO – September 12, 2017 – The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) today announced that Monroe County Medical Society (MCMS) of Rochester, New York, has joined ABMS' Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program (Portfolio Program™). MCMS physicians who are Board Certified by one of the 21 of 24 ABMS Member Boards participating in the Portfolio Program can now earn Maintenance of Certification (MOC) *Improvement in Medical Practice* (Part IV) credit for their involvement in the Society's Quality Improvement (QI) program.

With 1,200 members, MCMS represents the 7th District Branch of the Medical Society of the State of New York, serving Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates Counties. A core role of MCMS is to advocate for physicians and patients for the betterment of both medical professions working in the area, as well as the overall health of the community.

The MCMS ABMS Portfolio Program will reside within the MCMS Quality Collaborative, which is responsible for developing and updating community-wide clinical guidelines, increasing awareness of those guidelines, and working collaboratively with other community partners focused on addressing QI and health care disparities. MCMS guidelines have been recognized at the local, state, and national levels. MCMS promotes innovation among its stakeholders – health care providers, health care and community-based organizations – across the community by reviewing clinical variability, which can be targeted and reduced to improve guidelines and patient care.

“As an ABMS Portfolio Program Sponsor, MCMS will ensure that we provide meaningful QI project opportunities to the physicians in our region, bringing expertise of the Quality Collaborative and physician leadership oversight to the program,” said Christopher Bell, MS, MBA, Executive Director of MCMS. “We will encourage physicians to be innovative in their project designs or participate in projects developed within the Quality Collaborative and will welcome their feedback during the process to ensure they have input throughout it.”

The initial focus of the program by MCMS will be guideline implementation, working to increase awareness and establishment of a consistent, regional approach for the use of evidence-based clinical guidelines. MCMS anticipates that approximately 250 primary care physicians will participate in its first QI activity, representing two major health systems, one of which is a large academic medical center and several private practices. With the additional goal of forming strategic partnerships with other organizations, MCMS hopes to support physicians throughout the region to obtain access to QI activities with physician oversight and support.

“We are pleased to welcome the Monroe County Medical Society as a Portfolio Program sponsor. Physician engagement is essential to the long-term success of QI initiatives,” stated David W. Price, MD, FAAFP, FACEHP, Executive Director of the Portfolio Program. “MCMS’ participation in the Portfolio Program provides additional recognition of the valuable efforts these physicians and their teams are undertaking to improve the care of not only their current patient population, but through their various collaborations, even more patients and families throughout the state.”

To date, the ABMS Portfolio Program has helped engage physicians in quality and practice improvement initiatives at hospitals and health systems across the country, with many showing improvement in care outcomes. Since its inception, more than 2,000 improvement efforts have been completed by Portfolio Program participants.

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About ABMS

Established in 1933, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) continues to be the leading not-for-profit organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. ABMS establishes the standards its 24 Member Boards use to develop and implement educational and professional evaluation, assessment, and certification of physician specialists. More than 860,000 physicians are certified in one or more of the approved 37 specialties and 86 subspecialties offered by the [ABMS Member Boards](#). For more information about ABMS, visit abms.org or call (312) 436-2600.

About Monroe County Medical Society

Established in 1821 in Rochester, New York, Monroe County Medical Society is a non-profit, professional organization whose 1,200 members are physicians, residents, and medical students. The society advocates for physicians and patients for the betterment of the medical profession and the health of the community. For more information about MCMS, visit www.mcms.org/.