

AbstractID:9714 Title:International Program

Board Certification Mechanism Taiwan's experience

Ti-Chuang Chiang, Secretary, Chinese Society of Medical Physics, Taipei

Division of Medical Informatics, National Taiwan University

The legislative process of establishing the proper regulations for a board certification mechanism for medical physicists in Taiwan is very difficult. After many years of hard work with very little results, the Chinese Society of Medical Physics, Taipei in 1999 decided to set up the board certification process without government involvement. After studying the American and European experience, and with the help of some members who had obtained board certification status overseas, a qualifying process including the academic preparation, clinical experience, and examinations was established. With the support of the Taiwan Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, and the Atomic Energy Council, the board certification mechanism was formed. The early certificates were given with emphasis on radiation therapy physics. At present, this mechanism is widely recognized by the medical community in Taiwan even without government sanction. Hospital-based medical physicists are encouraged by the implementation to go through the board certification process. Many radiation oncology training programs have incorporated the concept of qualified medical physicists. Some hospital departments specify board certification as one of the requirements for employment. As the radiological physics field becomes more highly sophisticated, the need for keeping up with the knowledge becomes even more important. Hence, the certification program started the continuing education extension to promote the maintenance of professional competence. The rule for continuing professional development for certificate renewal had been revised by the board certification committee in 2003. This rule change further improved the board certification mechanism. In 2007, the certification process for diagnostic imaging medical physicists was established. We hope this will help to improve the quality of the fast growing medical imaging practice in Taiwan.