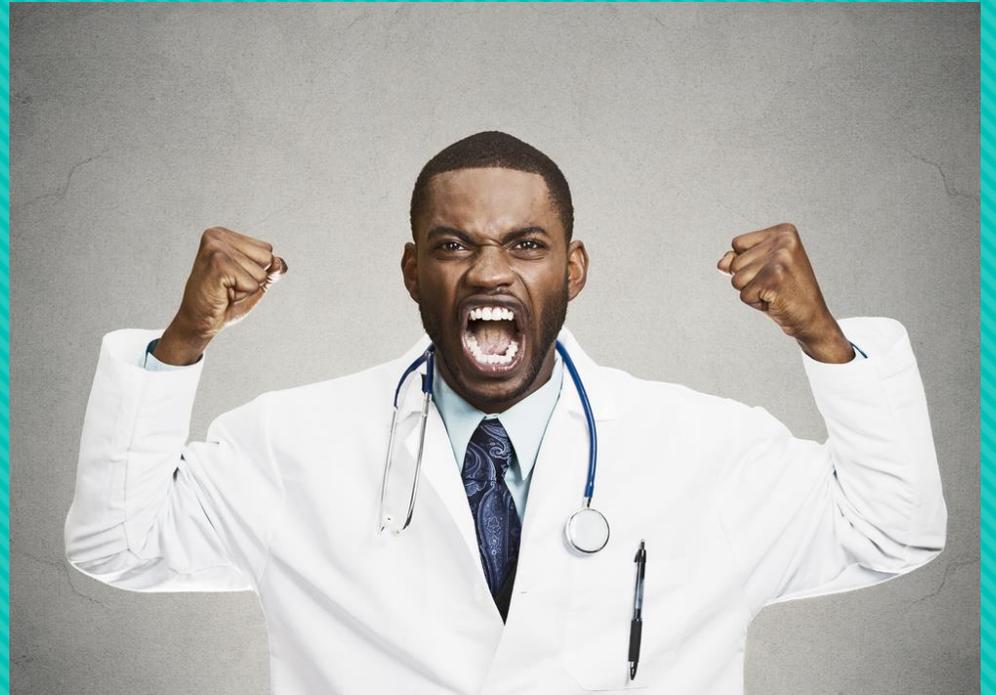


Why MOC Unites Physicians in Fury



By Gabriel Perna

PHYSICIANS
PRACTICE

"[This issue] crosses the political divide in America. It doesn't matter if you are right leaning, left leaning, extreme right, or extreme left politically. Corruption is corruption. Extortion of physicians will unite...like nothing else. This is taxation without representation."

Westby G. Fisher, MD, an internist, cardiologist, and cardiac electrophysiologist at NorthShore University health system in Evanston, Ill.

PHYSICIANS
PRACTICE

" [Physicians] are already [asked] to do a great deal of continuing medical education, which they all do, much of what is pertinent to what they do every day. In some ways... they feel that today's [MOC] process is out of touch with the clinical practice of medicine in their own specialties and they feel [it requires] a significant amount of resources spent at a time of shrinking reimbursement and increasing regulatory burden."

Carlos Cardenas, MD, president of the Texas Medical Association

"The problem with MOC is we're forced to participate, so there is no incentive for these boards to change. Why would they? We're forced to participate [in order] to work and they can charge whatever they want and make us do what we want."

Meg Edison, MD, a private practice pediatrician in Grand Rapid, Mich.

"Physicians are very much individualistic – their primary participation is with the patient. When you do anything that gets in the way of that, you are going to create unity among physicians. This gets in the way of the doctor-patient relationship in many different ways. That's what brings physicians together, especially when it's superimposed on the baseline of administrative work that is pushing many physicians out of practice."

Kim Monday, MD, Pasadena, Texas-based on-staff neurologist in the Memorial Hermann health system

"It's something going on top of everything else they are dealing with. It's not like the world was idyllic and then MOC emerged. We've been dealing with EHRs, prior authorization, insurance companies, malpractice lawyers, etc. ...this is just one more paper cut. It's a bad time for a lot of physicians and any added burden/hassle/check they have to write, if they don't think it's the best thing ever, it will be viewed negatively."

Yul Ejnes, MD, ABIM Board of Directors and Internal
Medicine Specialty Board, MOC defender

PHYSICIANS
PRACTICE

"Enough is enough and physicians have had enough...Any time you put a mandate that requires a physician to spend more time away from their practice, more time away from patients, and more time away from what they know how to do best...you're going to get a significant 'rubber meets road' issue. You're going to get that fire in the belly that many physicians have over this issue."

Cardenas

PHYSICIANS
PRACTICE

"In the end, maintenance of certification is all about the money and doctors know it and we are tired of playing the game."

Fisher

PHYSICIANS
PRACTICE