



# American Board of Family Medicine

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## External Collaborations Policy – American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)

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### INTRODUCTION

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This document outlines policy for external collaborators seeking to use the proprietary data of the ABFM for research purposes. The [mission of ABFM](#) is to promote excellence in medical care through educational and scientific initiatives. Through Family Medicine Certification the ABFM pursues its mission by establishing, maintaining, and measuring high standards of excellence in the specialty of Family Medicine. The primary research mission of the ABFM is to investigate the association between Family Medicine Certification participation and health care quality. Other areas of interest include the primary care work environment, the education and training of family physicians, services delivered by family physicians, and elements of the quadruple aim.

Additional areas of interest that align with the mission of the ABFM Foundation supported [Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care](#) include defining what professionalism and value mean in 21st century medicine by enhancing the metrics and accountability of professionalism, realigning how clinicians are valued and paid, supporting the intrinsic values of providing care, and reducing the risk of burnout.

External investigators may access ABFM data to conduct research that aligns with the mission and strategic plan of the ABFM. Proposals with a focus on Family Medicine Certification and the quality of health care are desired. All proposals should consider social determinants of health whenever possible.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

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First, submit a 1-2 page executive summary of the proposed project to [lpeterson@theabfm.org](mailto:lpeterson@theabfm.org). Proposals will be vetted monthly by the Research Governance Committee. If the Committee believes the proposed project aligns with our objectives, interests, and resources we will request a more detailed proposal that must contain a budget, if externally funded; note sources of funding sought or assured, if applicable; note a target date for completion of the project; agree, in writing, to abide by the applicable ABFM policies and procedures; and submit a written summary or evaluation at the end of the project. If approved, data sharing will only occur after the completion of a data use agreement and the requestor obtaining local ethical approval to conduct the work. In addition, you will be expected to destroy all data at completion of project.

If you would like to discuss a potential request, or if you have any questions regarding this policy, please email [research@theabfm.org](mailto:research@theabfm.org).