



## At-A-Glance

To maintain board certification, Diplomates participate in the required Continuous Certification Process, which consists of ongoing 3-year stages. During each 3-year stage, Diplomates must continuously comply with ABFM's Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct. In the year your next exam requirement is due, you will transition to the new Continuous Certification 5-Year Cycle to continue your ABFM board certification.

## Certification Components



### Professionalism

Designed to assess professional standing, board-certified family physicians are subject to compliance with the ABFM Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure and Personal Conduct (Guidelines) and general adherence to professional standards.



### Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning

Designed to help family physicians identify gaps in knowledge through participation in self-assessment activities, this component encourages the review of the most up-to-date clinical content.



### Performance Improvement

Designed to support high-quality patient care, this component will help family physicians identify an improvement opportunity or a performance gap, implement a change in care delivery, and measure the impact of that change to their patients/practice.



### Cognitive Expertise

Designed to assess and measure clinical knowledge, the Family Medicine Certification Examination (one-day exam) and the Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (longitudinal assessment) serve to assure the public that you are up-to-date and aware of the best practices in medical care across the wide spectrum of conditions treated by family physicians.

## Certification Requirements

### EACH 3-YEAR STAGE

#### 1. Certification Activities

Earn 50 certification points through Self-Assessment and Performance Improvement activities.

#### 2. Continuing Medical Education

Earn 150 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, with at least 50% from Division I.

#### 3. Professionalism and Licensure

Continuously comply with ABFM's Guidelines for Professionalism, Licensure, and Personal Conduct, which includes maintaining a valid, active, and full license to practice medicine in the United States or Canada.

### ANNUALLY

#### 4. Certification Fees

The annual certification fee allows you to complete all ABFM activities and includes the cost of your exam, whether you choose to take the longitudinal assessment or the one-day exam.

### CERTIFICATION EXAM

#### 5. Transition to the 5-Year Cycle

In the year your next exam is due, you will transition to the new Continuous Certification 5-Year Cycle. The 5-Year Cycle includes participating in the longitudinal assessment or taking the one-day exam, completing certification activities, and submitting CME.

To learn more, please visit your MyABFM Portfolio or contact the ABFM Support Center at 877-223-7437.

# Track Your Progress

As an ABFM Diplomate, you are provided with your own MyABFM portfolio to keep up to date with your progress towards meeting the continuous certification requirements. You can access certification activities, update your profile, designate your clinical status, update medical license, upload CME and more. Please keep your email current in your profile to ensure you do not miss important deadlines regarding your certification status and requirements.



Scan QR code  
to log in.



## Promote Your Achievement

Earning and maintaining your certification is an achievement that should be recognized and shared with your patients, your colleagues, and the public.

The ABFM digital badge and certificate allow you to share your board-certified status through a live online platform, which offers the ability for to share your badge on social media, embed in your email signature, display on a website or your mobile wallet. Log in to your [MyABFM Portfolio](#) to Claim Your Badge.

## Clinical Status Designation

In circumstances where career changes take place, you can update your Clinical Status in your MyABFM Portfolio. It is not necessary or advisable to update your status for vacation or a short leave of absence.

Clinically Active is defined as physicians who have direct and/or consultative patients care of ANY type, even if not with a traditional continuity of practice.

Clinically Inactive is defined as physicians who do not have direct and/or consultative patient care (e.g., fully administrative or research and do not see patients in any setting). If you are Clinically Inactive and designate this in your portfolio, you are exempt from completing a clinically based Performance Improvement activity. The 50-point requirement for activities with each stage remains, and these may be satisfied by completing additional self-assessment or non-clinically-based performance improvement activities.

### ABFM Support Center

PHONE: 877-223-7437

FAX: 859-335-7516

EMAIL: [help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org)

LIVE CHAT: [www.theabfm.org](http://www.theabfm.org) –  
Locate live chat at top of page

HOURS: Monday–Friday: 8 AM – 9 PM (Eastern)  
Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM (Eastern)

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