

Performance Improvement

At-A-Glance

Designed to support high quality patient care, this component will help family physicians regularly identify improvement opportunities or gaps, implement a change in care delivery and then measure the impact of that change.

ABFM offers a variety of activities to meet your performance improvement requirement. Choose from options like developing your own project, participating in an ABFM Directed Activity based on common improvement measures, reporting an improvement-based recognition or certification, and more within your MyABFM Portfolio. These activities allow you to share with ABFM the work you're doing to continuously improve your practice and provide better care for your patients.

Meaningful Participation

As part of your performance improvement submission, your work will be reviewed for meaningful participation. ABFM defines meaningful participation as identifying a gap in care or clinical processes, gathering baseline data for the chosen improvement measure, implementing an intervention to improve the measure, and analyzing post-intervention data to assess the level of improvement.

Activities

Self-Directed Clinical

Self-Directed activities allow an individual and up to nine additional physicians to report completed clinical practice improvement efforts, regardless of the scope of care that is delivered. The application process has been streamlined (averaging ~20 minutes to complete) to require only the necessary information to demonstrate the cycle of measure, intervention and re-measure, and attest to the level of participation in the effort.

Health Disparities/Equity Self-Directed Clinical Activity

This activity allows an individual and up to nine additional physicians to report a clinical practice improvement to reduce disparities and improve equity. Simply tell us how you have assessed and improved the way your practice addresses social determinants of health, health equity, and/or systemic ways in which you assure that patient access, experience, and care are equitable.

ABFM Developed Activities

These activities allow you to choose from 15 focused topic areas common to family medicine. Each activity provides guidance in the process of developing an individual performance improvement intervention. To view a full list of available topic areas, please visit your MyABFM Portfolio.

AI/ML Self-Directed Clinical Activity

This activity allows an individual and up to nine additional physicians to report a clinical practice improvement effort that describes the way you are using the rapidly emerging technologies of augmented intelligence and machine learning in your practice or setting, regardless of practice type or scope. This type of performance improvement can address many different dimensions of care — not just clinical quality measures but process effectiveness and efficiency, patient satisfaction, safety, and the other characteristics that the practice has identified.

Resident Performance Improvement Program

This program provides a mechanism for residency programs to demonstrate their ability to develop and oversee the successful completion of performance improvement projects that meet ABFM certification requirements. Approved sponsors can develop an oversee performance improvement projects without having to submit an application for each activity for ABFM review. To participate, residency programs should complete an application that includes several components of organizational capacity for teaching performance improvement fundamentals and conducting improvement projects. The application process requires a non-refundable \$300 fee.

Recognitions/Certifications

Another way to meet your performance improvement requirement is to submit evidence of any of the certifications or recognitions listed below Please visit your MyABFM Portfolio for the full list of activities from each of these organizations. You must be able to demonstrate that you are meaningfully involved with any of these efforts.

- Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC): Medical Home
- Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Patient Centered Medical Home Certification
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service
 - Primary Care First
 - MIPS Value Pathway
- Joint Commission Certification
- Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA)
- Minnesota Health Care Homes (HCH)
- NCQA
- TMF Health Quality Institute

Organizational Performance Improvement Program

This activity option allows groups of more than 10 physicians to work on an improvement project for performance improvement credit. If you are participating in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Clinically Integrated Network (CIN), health system network, or similarly constructed group of physicians who are working on improving care together, your organization can apply to be a sponsor for reporting your efforts to ABFM for your PI credit. This activity is also open for any organization that wishes to develop and conduct a PI project either in person or web-based with a group of family physicians. The application process requires a non-refundable \$100 fee for each application submitted to ABFM, regardless of the number of physicians participating.

External Organizations and Activities

ABFM has partnered with several external organizations to offer activities that satisfy your performance improvement requirement. Organizations and activities include American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) PI-CME, American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) PIMS program, ABMS Portfolio Program and Reciprocal Credit, University of Colorado, and more.

Precepting Performance Improvement Program

The Precepting Performance Improvement (PI) Program allows academic units (sponsors) to develop and oversee the completion of PI projects that meet the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Family Medicine Certification requirements. Approved sponsors are able to develop and oversee projects for teaching physicians without having to submit an application for each activity for ABFM review. To participate in the Precepting Program, sponsors must attest to comply with ABFM requirements in three distinct areas: organizations, PI projects, and physician participation including 180 hours of 1:1 precepting. Please note, this PI activity is designed to complete activities that improve the precepting skills for Diplomates precepting family medicine residents and/or medical students.

National Peer Reviewed Paper or Poster PI Activity

This activity provides a mechanism for meeting the Performance Improvement (PI) requirement by submitting your:

- Performance-Improvement paper, after publication in a national or international peer-reviewed journal.
- Peer reviewed poster on a Performance Improvement effort that was presented at a national or international conference.

Papers or posters that qualify for credit under this mechanism include:

- Longitudinal quality improvement activities implemented in clinical settings.
- Activities that translate or disseminate research into broader practice.

Need help choosing an activity?

Use the Activity Preferences in your MyABFM Portfolio to view activities that best fit your practice. Simply answer a brief questionnaire about your practice and interests to receive a targeted list of activities with greater relevance. Log in to your MyABFM Portfolio to get started.





