



American Board
of Family Medicine

Performance Improvement

ABFM offers a wide variety of relevant and up-to-date Performance Improvement activities to help you meet your certification requirements!

The purpose of the Performance Improvement (PI) component of Family Medicine Certification is to demonstrate that you are able to reflectively look at your practice, identify opportunities to improve the care of patients, or the processes of care delivery, and then to develop and implement an intervention that would address the performance gap.

There are a variety of PI activities that have been developed by ABFM as well as external providers. If you are designated as clinically active, completing any of these activities will provide you 20 points towards your overall 50-point certification requirement. If you are designated as clinically inactive in your **MyABFM Portfolio**, you are not required to complete a PI activity, though you may choose to do so as part of fulfilling your 50-point activity requirement in each three-year stage.

ABFM intends for this to be a meaningful activity that helps you to continuously improve the care you deliver. We strive to offer a wide array of options that provide you with choices of activities that are relevant to your practice while eliminating the need for unnecessary redundancy of work.

Activity Preferences

Your new **MyABFM Portfolio** has a section called Activity Preferences, which allows you to enter information about your practice and interests and will provide you with a targeted (and shorter!) list of activities of greater relevance based on what you told us – so you don't have to comb through so many options to find something that best fits your needs!

Key Things to Know

- PI activities award 20 certification points to help you meet the 50 point requirement and may also offer CME.
- If you are clinically active, you must complete at least one PI activity during each three-year stage.
- ABFM offers many PI activities that may be applicable to your practice setting. If you need assistance choosing a relevant PI activity, please contact our support center and we'll be happy to help!



Performance Improvement Activity Options

ABFM Developed

ABFM has developed a broad range of topic areas and provides guidance for your to develop individual performance improvement interventions. These activities are available in a number of topic areas to fit your practice setting and can be completed individually.

TOPICS

- Acute Care
- Asthma
- Behavioral Health
- Cardiovascular
- Chronic Care
- Diabetes
- Efficiency and Cost Reduction
- Emergency Department/Urgent Care
- Hospice Palliative Care
- Hospitalist
- Hypertension
- Patient Safety
- Pediatrics
- Preventive Care
- Sports Medicine

► Self-Directed Clinical

The Self-Directed Clinical activity allows an individual and up to 9 additional physicians to report customized 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

The Health Disparities/Equity Self-Directed Clinical activity allows you to complete a custom quality improvement effort for any scope of practice. This activity tells ABFM how you have assessed and improved the way your practice addresses social determinants of health, health equity, or systemic ways in which you assure patient access, experience, and care are equitable. Built on the model of ABFM's Self-Directed activity, you can choose your own approach and report it in your MyABFM Portfolio.

This activity can address many different dimensions of care – such as assessing race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation/gender identity, disability, rural, or the underserved. You can then plan an intervention to close gaps in care such as disparate outcomes of common screening activities (cancer, HIV) and conditions (quality measures for hypertension, diabetes, etc.). Built on the model of ABFM's Self-Directed activity, you can choose your own approach. Sample resources are available for use if you find these helpful to beginning this effort.

► COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical Pilot

The COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical activity allows Diplomates to submit a custom quality improvement effort which can address many different dimensions of care. These may include clinical quality measures, process effectiveness and efficiency, patient satisfaction, safety, and other characteristics that the practice has identified. Visit your **MyABFM Portfolio** to get started.

► Organizational Performance Improvement

The Organizational PI activity allows groups of more than 10 physicians to collaboratively complete an improvement project. If you are participating in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Clinically Integrated Network (CIN), health system network, or similarly constructed group of physicians, your organization can apply to be a sponsor an report your efforts to ABFM for PI credit. The application process requires a non-refundable \$100 fee for each application, regardless of the number of physicians participating. The application is available at **<https://theabfm.mymocam.com/extsponsor/>**.

External Organizations

▶ AAFP Performance Improvement – CME

The American Academy of Family Physicians creates and approves activities that provide 20 certification points, PI credit, and offer CME. Learn more about these activities at www.aafp.org.



▶ ABP Practice Improvement Modules (PIMS)

The American Board of Pediatrics (ABPeds) offers several self-paced activities known as Performance Improvement Modules (PIMs). These can be completed individually or in a small group and are available in an array of topic areas. Please note that the Virtual QI Learning PIM does not award PI credit.

▶ ABMS Reciprocal Credit

If you have completed a PI activity with another ABMS Member Board, you can submit your certificate of completion to request reciprocal credit for completing that activity. Please note that activities must meet ABFM guidelines.



American Board
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▶ Transferring Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI)

ABFM's PRIME Support and Alignment Network, in collaboration with the University of Colorado, Department of Family Medicine's e-Learning team, has developed three TCPI activities focusing on key concepts. Visit your [MyABFM Portfolio](#) for more information.

▶ Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program

This program allows sponsors, like hospitals and health systems, professional societies, and community health care organizations, to develop and offer initiatives that align with organizational improvement priorities. To find a list of Portfolio Program Sponsors, visit portfolio.theabfm.org.



Residency/Academic

▶ Resident Performance Improvement

The ResPIP pathway is a means for residency programs to develop and oversee the successful completion of clinical practice Performance Improvement projects for residents and faculty that meet the ABFM Family Medicine Certification requirements. Approved sponsors will be able to submit each activity to ABFM. The application process requires a non-refundable \$300 fee. Visit theabfm.org/mymocam.com for more information.

▶ Precepting Performance Improvement

The Precepting Performance Improvement Program allows academic units (family medicine departments, residency programs, etc.) to sponsor Performance Improvement projects completed by community physicians who precept residents or students at a level of 180 hours during your three-year stage. This option, developed through collaboration with the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, allows you to receive PI activity credit for improving your teaching skills and to have this reported through your academic sponsor (clerkship director, residency director, etc.). Visit theabfm.org/mymocam.com for more information.

Recognitions/Certifications

If you are involved in a practice that has earned one of the following recognitions, and you were meaningfully involved in the effort, you can earn PI activity credit by submitting evidence of the certification or recognition.

- **Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC):** Medical Home
- **Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC):**
 - Ambulatory Care
 - Behavioral Health
 - Hospice or Hospital
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Patient Centered Medical Home Certification**
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:** MIPS Value Pathways (MVPs)
- **Comprehensive Primary Care Plus or Advanced Primary Care Medical Home**
- **Joint Commission Certification:**
Patient Center Home Certification, or one of the Disease Specific Care (DSC) Certifications
 - Acute Stroke-Ready Hospital
 - Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - Comprehensive Cardiac Center
 - Comprehensive Stroke Center
 - Heart Failure
 - Inpatient Diabetes
 - Palliative Care
 - Perinatal Care
 - Primary Stroke Center
 - Thrombectomy-capable Stroke Center
 - Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement
- **Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award (MBNQA):** Quality Award for Healthcare
- **Minnesota Health Care Homes (HCH):** Health Care Home
- **NCQA:**
 - Diabetes
 - Heart/Stroke
 - Patient-Centered Medical Home
 - NCQA Distinction in Behavioral Health Integration for those family physicians who already possess a recognition in Patient-Centered Medical Home
- **Primary Care First**
- **TMF Health Quality Institute:**
 - Hospital Quality Improvement Award Program
 - Nursing Home and Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Improvement Award Program
 - Physician Practice Quality Improvement Award Program

For more information on all Performance Improvement activities, log into your [MyABFM Portfolio](#).



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