



American Board
of Family Medicine



Performance Improvement

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. Using a Plan-Do-Study-Act process of quality improvement, these activities will facilitate your use of data to determine if the intervention you designed resulted in the improvement.

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 **Physician 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.

Certification Requirement



- Each 3-Year Stage Requirement – Earn 20 Points
- Complete a Minimum of 1 Performance Improvement Activity



Performance Improvement Activity Options

ABFM Developed

ABFM-Developed PI activities provide a broad range of topic areas and resources for you to develop individual performance improvement interventions. These activities are available in a number of topic areas to fit your practice setting.

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 ~10 minutes to complete) to require only the necessary information to demonstrate the cycle of measure, intervention and re-measure, and to attest to the level of participation in the effort.

► COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical Pilot

The COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical Pilot allows physicians to direct a custom rapid-cycle quality improvement effort, regardless of whether they provide continuing care. This activity provides a mechanism for meeting the PI requirement by telling us about the unprecedented and rapid changes that you had to make in the ways that you deliver care, regardless of practice type or scope. This activity can address many different dimensions of care — not just clinical quality measures, but process effectiveness and efficiency, patient satisfaction, safety and the other characteristics the practice has identified.

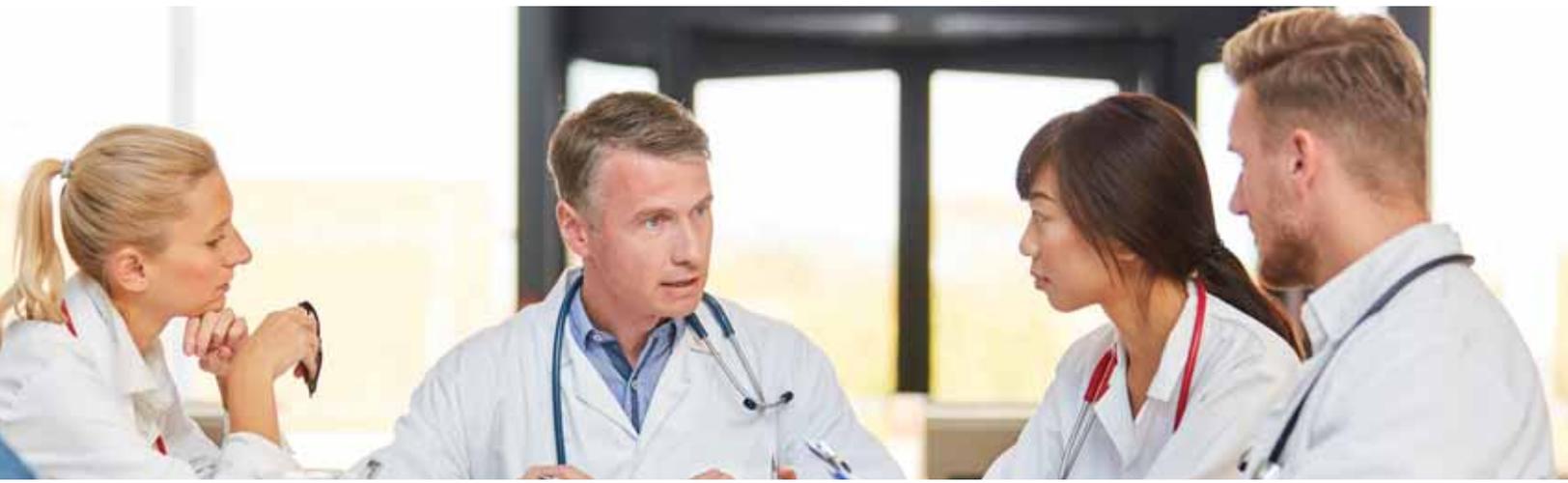
► Organizational Performance Improvement

The Organizational PI 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 pathway 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. Visit theabfm.org/performanceimprovement for more information.

▶ 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 type or scope of practice in which you work. This activity provides a mechanism for meeting the Performance Improvement requirement by telling us about how you have assessed and improved the way that your practice addresses social determinants of health; health equity (broadly defined); and/or systemic ways in which you assure that patient access, experience and care are equitable.

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.



Residency/Academic

▶ Resident Performance Improvement

The ResPIP pathway is a means for residency programs to develop and oversee the successful completion of 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. 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.

Other External Organizations

▶ AAFP Performance Improvement – CME

The American Academy of Family Physicians creates and approves activities that meet the PI activity requirement (Performance Navigator Series for Diabetes, Dyslipidemia, and Hypertension) and offer CME credit as well. More information can be found at aafp.org.



▶ ABMS Reciprocal Credit

If you have completed a Performance Improvement activity with one of the 23 other ABMS Member Boards, you may request reciprocal credit for completing that activity. If the activity complies with the ABFM guidelines, you will receive 20 Family Medicine Certification points and meet the PI activity requirement.



**American Board
of Medical Specialties**
Higher standards. Better care.®

▶ ABP Practice Improvement Modules (PIMS)

The **American Board of Pediatrics (ABP)** has developed several PI options, known as Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs). PIMs are self-paced activities that can be completed individually or in a small group. These are available in an array of topic areas that could be applicable to your practice.

All of the ABP-developed PIMs are acceptable options to complete for activity and PI credit, with one exception, the Virtual QI Learning PIM. By choosing to complete the Virtual QI Learning PIM you will earn 20 activity points towards your overall 50-point activity requirement, but it will not fulfill your minimum PI requirement.

▶ Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program

ABFM participates in the Multi-Specialty Portfolio Program sponsored by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). This program sets standards for identifying, creating opportunities for, and evaluating meaningful participation in quality improvement, patient safety, and continuous professional development activities. Portfolio Program Sponsors develop and offer initiatives that align with organizational improvement priorities such as improved communication, efficiency, and patient safety. Initiatives could address community health concerns, ranging from cancer screenings and cardiovascular disease prevention, to improving immunization rates and transitions of care. Portfolio Program Sponsors include leading hospitals, health systems, professional societies, and community health care organizations across the country. To find a list of ABMS Portfolio Program Sponsors visit portfolio.theabfm.org/ui/login.

▶ Transferring Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI)

ABFM **PRIME Support and Alignment Network** in collaboration with the University of Colorado, Department of Family Medicine's e-Learning Team have developed three new Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI) performance improvement activities that focus on key TCPI concepts: TCPI Person-and-Family-Centered Care Design, TCPI Cost and Value of Care, and TCPI Care Coordination Across the Medical Neighborhood. If you would like to participate in one or more of these new TCPI performance improvement activities, please register [here](#) and enter the registration code: ABFM. You may also access these new TCPI performance improvement activities in your **Physician Portfolio**.



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
- **Bridges to Excellence:**
 - Asthma Care
 - Cardiac Care
 - COPD
 - Diabetes
 - Heart Failure
 - Hypertension
- **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
- **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

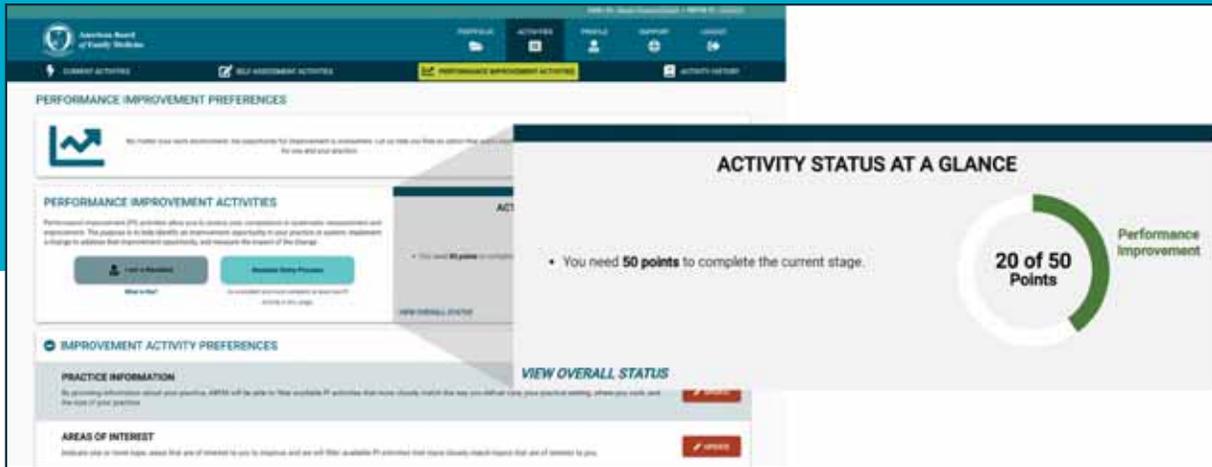
For more information on all Performance Improvement activities, log into your [Physician Portfolio](#).



The Self-Directed Pathway is perfect as it allows for family physicians to identify and work on an area in need in their practice and satisfy a maintenance of certification requirement in a way that directly affects patient care.

— Jessie Pettit, MD / ABFM Diplomate
Assistant Professor
Residency Program Director
University of Arizona
Family Medicine Residency Program





Performance Improvement (PI) Locator Tool

Using the PI Locator in the [Physician Portfolio](#), you can identify the most relevant activities for completing this requirement based on your practice type and scope. Credit is easily available for performance improvement efforts that you are already engaged in within your own practice or as part of any larger organization in which you work with other physicians to improve care.

The PI Locator allows you to enter and save your personal preferences like the type of practice, areas of practice interest, and awards. The PI Locator will then select the most relevant activities to the preferences you set making it easier to choose an activity that is right for you and your practice. Log into your Physician Portfolio to check out the new [PI Locator tool](#).



Virtual Office Hours

To help guide you through this process and answer your questions, we offer Virtual Office hours from 2:30-4:00 PM (EST). Our Performance Improvement Manager can assist you with your questions. For current dates and call-in information, visit our [Facebook](#) page.



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