

THE PHOENIX

A Diplomates' Newsletter

A Message from the President

James C. Puffer, M.D.

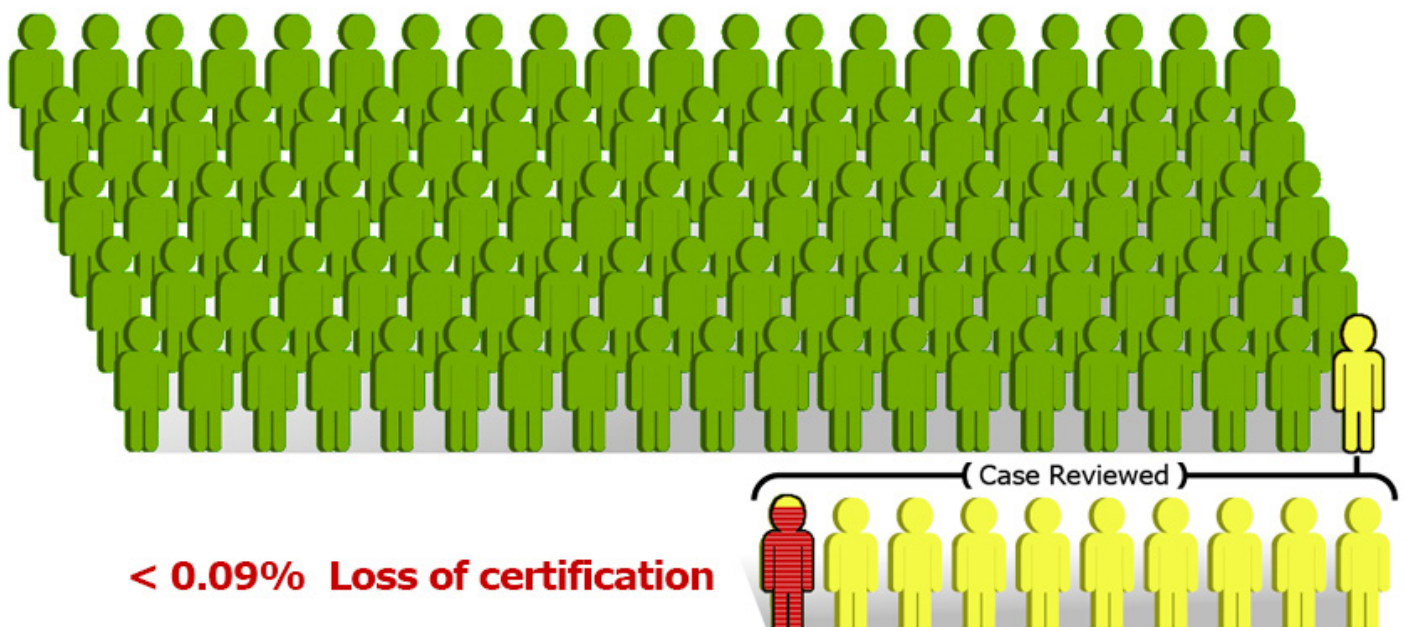
Welcome to the latest iteration of the ABFM's newsletter, *The Phoenix*. We have been busy over the past months revamping the way in which we communicate with you, and this is just one of the many changes that you will see over the course of the next year. You have probably already noticed that we are sending you shorter, more targeted email messages to remind you of your requirements and deadlines, and likewise we have streamlined our newsletter so that its length is shorter, it's easier to read, and it will be delivered to you more frequently electronically. My message will also be shorter in keeping with this new format, so I will need to try to provide as much new information as I can in the short space allotted to me!

The next change you are likely to notice will be the beginning of the revision of our website later this year. The first phase will update the public-facing pages of the website that welcome you to our portal, followed by the remake of the pages behind the login, which will include your physician portfolio and our web-based assessment activities. These changes are being made not only to refresh the website, but most importantly to make your navigation of the site more efficient.

Many of you may receive a survey this summer that will be conducted for us by the University of Florida seeking your opinions on our current continuous certification paradigm and, most importantly, on potential options for the every 10-year examination. Our Certification and Examination Committees have been carefully studying this issue over the past 12 months, and now we need to know which of the options you prefer. A random sample of our Diplomates will receive this survey, and we hope that all of you that receive it will complete it. We need to know your thoughts on this and other important issues regarding continuous certification!

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99% of Diplomates never have a case go before the credentials committee
(Less than 0.1% actually lose their certification)





A Message from the President

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We will be introducing the opportunity for you to declare your clinical status later this month. We believe that it makes no sense for those no longer practicing clinical medicine to complete the Performance Improvement requirement, and those declaring themselves “clinically inactive” will be exempted from this requirement. This self-declared status will appear on our website to inform the public that while you remain certified, you are no longer actively practicing. We will also be providing the opportunity for retired family physicians to do

likewise, whether certified or not. Those no longer certified will still have their entire certification history displayed in our directory along with the designation of their retired status.

On a final note, our Early Results Initiative was a resounding success! While we just sent out formal examination results earlier this month for those that took the examination in late April/early May, over 90% of the examinees received a preliminary notice of their results within 5 working days of taking the exam, reducing

the unnecessary anxiety of waiting 4-6 weeks for the official results. We look forward to employing a similar strategy with the administration of the November examination.

Enjoy the summer, and I will look forward to updating you again soon.



Clinical Status Self-Designation to Customize Certification

Since the introduction of Maintenance of Certification in 2003, there have been four components approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member boards including Professionalism, Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning, Cognitive Expertise, and Performance in Practice. Initially, the ABFM developed Performance in Practice Modules (PPMs) to assess performance in practice and also approved the AAFP’s METRIC modules to meet this requirement. However, the ABFM also needed to assess performance in practice for those who did not have traditional continuity practices or who did not see patients at all. As a result, the ABFM developed the Methods in Medicine Modules (MIMMs), including the Information Management MIMM, and approved the Cultural Competency activities to meet the performance in practice component.

Unfortunately, there are very few alternative activities available that are suitable to be a MIMM and comparable to a performance in practice activity. After discontinuing the Information Management MIMM, there are now only two alternative activities for Diplomates to choose, the Cultural Competency activity and the Hand Hygiene simulated patient data activity. Thousands of physicians have already completed the available alternative activities to meet prior stage requirements, and it does not make sense to have them repeat an activity.

After review of the current situation, the ABFM Board of Directors approved allowing physicians to self-designate whether they are clinically active or clinically inactive. Those physicians that are clinically active will be able to meet their performance improvement requirement by utilizing the many existing options. Those physicians who are clinically inactive will be exempt from meeting performance in practice requirements and will meet their 50-point stage requirements with additional self-assessment activities.

Physicians will be able to indicate their clinical status online in their physician portfolio within the next month. Physicians will be alerted when the self-designation option is available after they log in to their physician portfolios. This information will be visible in the Find a Physician and Verifications sections of the ABFM website to inform the public and credentialing entities whether a physician is currently caring for patients.

In circumstances where career changes take place, clinical status can be updated online in the Physician Portfolio. It is not necessary to update your clinical status for a vacation or other short-term leave of absence. A change from clinically inactive to clinically active will require subsequent completion of a Performance Improvement activity.



Enroll in PRIME Registry™ by July 31, 2018 to Utilize MIPS Reporting Service

This year the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring practices to include a full year of patient data in their reporting for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). To take advantage of PRIME Registry MIPS reporting services, Diplomates must enroll by July 31, 2018. Last year, more than 1,700 clinicians successfully reported for MIPS through the ABFM Prime Registry.

The ABFM now offers two PRIME Registry subscription plans:

- **EHR-Integrated**

Practices with compatible EHRs can choose the EHR-integrated plan which includes PRIME Registry dashboard access for at-a-glance viewing of quality measure performance, the complete suite of dashboard apps, individual and group submission services for all three components of MIPS, submission support for CPC+ (Tracks 1 and 2), and, for ABFM Diplomates, exclusive access to the Performance Improvement Activity tool.

- **Manual Entry**

Practices without a compatible EHR or no EHR can choose the Manual Entry subscription plan. This plan includes live dashboard access for viewing quality measure performance, and individual and group submission services for all three components of MIPS.

Both PRIME Registry subscription plans are free of charge to ABFM Diplomates for the first three years. EHR-integrated subscriptions are \$360 per clinician per year for non-ABFM Diplomates.

To utilize PRIME Registry for 2018 MIPS reporting, Diplomates must enroll at <http://primeregistry.org/how-to-register> by July 31, 2018.

For more information about the PRIME Registry, visit www.primeregistry.org or email PRIME@theabfm.org. For PRIME Registry log in help or assistance with other technical difficulties, please email PRIME@figmd.com or call the PRIME support line at 240-823-4463.

Retired Physician Status

Are you retired from practice or work career? This summer, there will be an additional feature inside the Physician Portfolio that will allow physicians to self-designate their retired status. This designation does not change your board certification status. However, it will more accurately reflect your status as a family physician on the ABFM website in the Find a Physician directory and the ABMS physician directory, informing the public and credentialing entities of your retired status.

If you are currently certified and self-designate as retired, your certification status will remain current until you are no longer meeting certification requirements. Retired physicians may choose to maintain their certification for as long as they wish, provided they continue to meet all of the requirements.

Family Medicine Certification

Examination Dates – Fall 2018

November 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10

*Registration Begins
(online applications available)
July 20*

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ABFM Elects New Officers and Board Members

The ABFM is pleased to announce the election of four new officers and three new board members. The new officers elected at the ABFM's spring board meeting in April are: Jerry E. Kruse, MD, MSPH of Springfield, Illinois as Chair; John Brady, MD of Newport News, Virginia as Chair-Elect; Joseph W. Gravel, Jr., MD of Lawrence, Massachusetts as Treasurer; and Colleen Conry, MD of Aurora, Colorado as Member-at-Large, Executive Committee. In addition, the ABFM welcomes this year's new members to the Board of Directors: Roger Bush, MD of Seattle, Washington; Gerardo Moreno, MD of Los Angeles, California; and Robert L. Wergin, MD of Milford, Nebraska.

The remaining current members of the Board are: Wendy Biggs, MD of Overland Park, Kansas; Beth Bortz of Richmond, Virginia; Christopher A. Cunha, MD of Crestview Hills, Kentucky; Montgomery Douglas, MD of West Hartford, Connecticut; Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Michael K. Magill, MD of Salt Lake City, Utah; John Mellinger, MD of Springfield, Illinois; Robert J. Ronis, MD, MPH of Cleveland, Ohio; David E. Soper, MD of Charleston, South Carolina; Daniel Spogen, MD of Sparks, Nevada; and Melissa Thomason of Pinetops, North Carolina.

The ABFM Board of Directors looks forward to working with the new members as it continues to implement and enhance the Family Medicine Certification program and the important task of sustaining the mission of the ABFM. For more information on the current Board members, please visit the Board of Directors page on our website <https://www.theabfm.org/about/board.aspx>.



Jerry E. Kruse, MD, MSPH



John Brady, MD



Joseph W. Gravel, Jr., MD



Colleen Conry, MD



Roger Bush, MD



Gerardo Moreno, MD



Robert L. Wergin, MD



ABFM Selects Elizabeth G. Baxley, MD as New Senior Vice President



The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) is pleased to announce the selection of Elizabeth G. (Libby) Baxley, MD, to become its next Senior Vice President beginning July 1, 2018.

As Senior Vice President, Dr. Baxley's major initial focus will be to lead all aspects of ABFM activity that relate to the experience of board-certified family physicians with ABFM, including residency, the early clinical years, credentials, and communications.

"A first priority of our efforts is engagement of Diplomates as we work to make Family Medicine Certification as valuable as possible," commented Warren Newton, MD, MPH, President and CEO Elect of the American Board of Family Medicine. "Dr. Baxley's dedication to the discipline of family medicine and her passion for education will prove invaluable as she works with Diplomates to evolve the process of continuing certification. I am pleased that she has accepted the challenge to enhance all aspects of Diplomate experience with the ABFM."

A graduate of Clemson University, Dr. Baxley received a Doctor of Medicine from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. She completed a family medicine residency at Anderson Family Practice Residency in South Carolina followed by the Faculty Development Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She is currently the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, where she has served since May 2012. In that role, she led a pioneering curriculum redesign with an emphasis on integration of training in health system science competencies: patient safety, quality improvement, population health, and interprofessional education. Brody was one of only 11 medical schools nationally to be selected by the AMA in its Accelerating Change in Medical Education initiative. Prior to that she spent 18 years at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, serving as Family Medicine Residency Director, school-wide Director of Faculty Development, and Chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Her work has focused heavily on health care delivery system redesign and teaching about patient safety and quality improvement. A faculty advisor for IHI Open School chapters at both USC and Brody SOM, she is also one of the co-founders of the I3 Collaborative, which has led residency practice redesign in primary care teaching practices across South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia.

Dr. Baxley has an outstanding track record of leadership in Family Medicine, having taught and provided full-scope family medicine throughout the greater part of her 31-year career. In addition to her roles as a prior board member and board chair of the American Academy of Family Physician's (AAFP) Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO®) and the AAFP's Residency Assistance Program Panel of Consultants, she served on the ABFM Board of Directors from 2013-2018. During her tenure on the board, she served on the Certification, Credentials, Examination, and Research and Development committees, the latter of which she chaired. She became a member of the Executive Committee in 2016 after her election as Chair Elect and finished her final year on the board of directors as the Board Chair.

Dr. Baxley has been honored with many distinctions including the American Academy of Family Physicians Exemplary Teaching Award and the James Halford Award for Leadership in Humane Education. In 2017 she was recognized by East Carolina University with a Woman of Distinction Award, and in 2016 and 2018 received the American Medical Women's Association Gender Equity Award from medical students at Brody SOM.

"This is a critical time in history for physicians to engage in meaningful dialogue around professional self-regulation and the value proposition of board certification," said Baxley. "The ABFM board members and the professional staff in Lexington, Kentucky are committed to serving as partners with Diplomates to demonstrate mastery and quality of care provided by family physicians throughout the US. I am excited about the prospect of working closely with individual physicians and family medicine organizations in an effort to enhance the value of family medicine certification into the future."



ATTENTION: Diplomates Who Certified in 2009

Diplomates who initially certified or continuously certified last in 2009 have a deadline quickly approaching. Your 3-year Stage is ending on **December 31, 2018**.

Please login to your Physicians Portfolio to review your progress towards completion of the current stage and determine if you need to complete additional certification activities before the end of this year.

We know that your ABFM Certification is important to you. Please do not let this deadline pass without checking your status. Those physicians who do not complete the required activities by the end of 2018 will be listed as “not certified” on both the ABFM website and the ABMS website. Credentialers and patients use both of these websites to find a certified physician and verify credentials.

Diplomates planning to take the Family Medicine Certification Exam in April 2019 may open and begin an examination application in December 2018, but until certification requirements are met, the application cannot be approved and finalized. Test centers and dates may not be chosen until an application is complete.

ATTENTION: Diplomates Who Certified in 2012

Diplomates who initially certified or continuously certified last in 2012 have a deadline quickly approaching. Your 3-year Stage is ending on **December 31, 2018**.

Please login to your Physicians Portfolio to review your progress towards completion of the current stage and determine if you need to complete additional certification activities before the end of this year.

We know that your ABFM Certification is important to you. Please do not let this deadline pass without checking your status. Those physicians who do not complete the required activities by the end of 2018 will be listed as “not certified” on both the ABFM website and the ABMS website. Credentialers and patients use both of these websites to find a certified physician and verify credentials.

ATTENTION: Diplomates Who Certified in 2015

Diplomates who initially certified or continuously certified last in 2015 have a deadline quickly approaching. Your 3-year Stage is ending on **December 31, 2018**.

Please login to your Physicians Portfolio to review your progress towards completion of the current stage and determine if you need to complete additional certification activities before the end of this year.

We know that your ABFM Certification is important to you. Please do not let this deadline pass without checking your status. Those physicians who do not complete the required activities by the end of 2018 will be listed as “not certified” on both the ABFM website and the ABMS website. Credentialers and patients use both of these websites to find a certified physician and verify credentials.

**The American Board
of Family Medicine**

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