

Family Medicine Certification: Recent Modifications/Enhancements - What You Need to Know Now

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Joseph Tollison, MD, FAAFP

Senior Advisor to the President of the American Board of Family Medicine

Dr. Tollison practiced family medicine for 30 years, and taught medical students and residents for 25 years. He has held many academic and administrative appointments, including committees of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Since 2008, he has been the senior advisor to the president of the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. Tollison believes that challenges facing family medicine today include resident training modification, reimbursement challenges, and helping family physicians maximize their MC-FP programs.

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Learning Objectives

1. Understand the most recent changes/modifications/enhancements to ABFM's Family Medicine Certification.
2. Develop an individualized strategy to successfully complete the Family Medicine Certification process.
3. Recognize the best pathway to successfully meeting the Performance Improvement requirement.

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- **Professionalism:** Evidence of professional standing
- **Self-Assessment & Lifelong Learning:** Evidence of a commitment to lifelong learning and involvement in a periodic self-assessment process
- **Cognitive Expertise:** Evidence of cognitive expertise
- **Performance Improvement:** Evidence of evaluation of performance in practice

Unchanged Since Our Inception in 1969

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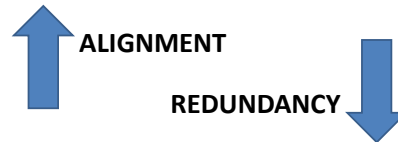


Melissa Thomason
Pindops, NC

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ABFM's OVERARCHING APPROACH



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Key Research Findings so Far

Shrinking Scope of Practice

• Xierali IM, J Am Board Fam Med. 2012; Tong ST, J Am Board Fam Med. 2012; Bazemore AW, J Am Board Fam Med. 2012

Residents Intend a Broader Scope of Practice than Practicing Family Physicians

• Countinho A, JAMA 2015

More Comprehensive Care is Associated with Lower Overall Costs of Care

• Bazemore AW, Ann Fam Med. 2015

Part 4 Activities Rated Highly and Lead to Changes in Practice

• Peterson LE, JCEHP. 2016

Diabetes and Hypertension Care Improves through Part 4

• Peterson LE, JHO 2016; Peterson LE, Ann Fam Med. 2014; Peterson LE, JCEHP. 2014



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Research In Progress

Self-Assessment Feedback Analysis

Performance Improvement Activity Feedback Analysis

Comprehensiveness and Scope of Practice

TRADEMaRQ and PRIME Registry

Maternity Care Fellowship Accreditation

How Diplomates study for the exam

Burnout in family physicians

Details regarding each of these research projects can be found on the ABFM website www.theabfm.org

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Knowledge Self-Assessment Activity (KSAs):

- A longitudinal educational initiative—**NOT** a test
- Completion/progression (80%) is the expectation
- Goal of mastery of current information (revised every 5 years)
- “Open Book”- Multiple retakes as needed
- Discussion with colleagues, consultants **encouraged**
- Multiple resource “tools” are available inside each module

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Knowledge Self-Assessment Activities currently available online:

Each Activity is offered in a dynamic, interactive, web-based format with reference links.

- Asthma
- Care of the Vulnerable Elderly
- Cerebrovascular Disease
- Childhood Illness
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Health Behavior
- Heart Failure
- Hospital Medicine
- Hypertension
- Maternity Care
- Mental Health in the Community
- Pain Management
- Preventive Care
- Well Child Care
- Medical Genomics (KSA)

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REQUIREMENTS PER 3-YEAR STAGE

1 KSA (Knowledge Self-Assessment) (10 points)
plus
1 Performance Improvement Activity (PPM, PPM Alternative, MIMM)

THEN, YOUR CHOICE
(MIX & MATCH TO REACH A TOTAL OF **50** POINTS)

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Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) to Become Two Separate Activities

(10-year Pathway)

Options	Self-Assessment Activities		Performance Improvement	Certification Points
	Knowledge Self-Assessment (10 pts)	Clinical Self-Assessment (5 pts)	PPM, MIMM, etc. (20 pts)	Minimum 50 Points from SA and PI Activities
Option 1*	2 KSA	2 CSA	1 PI Activity	50 Points
Option 2	3 KSA	0 CSA	1 PI Activity	50 Points
Option 3	1 KSA	0 CSA	2 PI Activities	50 Points

*Option 1 reflects completing the 3-year Stage with two (2) KSAs and one (1) CSA.
**The Self-Assessment requirement also includes completing continuing medical education activities equaling 300 CME hours in the last six years prior to the examination year. KSAs and CSAs, as well as Performance Improvement activities that have CME credits, can be applied toward the CME requirement.

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2003-2010 (7 Year Option)
7-Year Certification Requirements (Certification Examination in Year 7)
Minimum of 3 KSAs; CSAs Optional
Minimum of 1 Performance Improvement Activity
Minimum of 110 Points

2003-2010 (10 Year Option)
10-Year Family Medicine Certification in three 3-year stages (Certification Examination in Year 10)
Minimum of 1 KSA = 10 Points Per 3-Year Stage
Minimum of 1 Performance Improvement Activity = 20 Points Per 3-Year Stage
Minimum of 50 Points from SA & PI Activities per 3-Year Stage

2011-Beyond (Continuous)
Continuous Process in 3-Year Stages
Minimum of 1 KSA = 10 Points Per 3-Year Stage
Minimum of 1 Performance Improvement Activity = 20 Points Per 3-Year Stage
Minimum of 50 Points from SA & PI Activities per 3-Year Stage

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Changes Effective with Continuous Certification (2011 and Beyond)

- 10-year examination requirement
- 7-year certification plan no longer available
- Point system in place - 50 points required per 3-year Stage
 - KSA = 10 points
 - CSA (Optional) = 5 points
 - Performance Improvement activities = 20 points
- Certification status contingent on meeting requirements **WITHIN** each 3-year Stage (deadline December 31st of year 3 of each Stage)
- Simplified financial plan
- CME requirement per 3-year Stage – 150 credits (*Unchanged*)

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It's Not Too Late!

2013 Diplomates must complete the Continuous Certification Requirements.

The deadline for 2013 Diplomates to complete Family Medicine Certification requirements in Stage I is **December 31, 2016!**

2010 Diplomates who have completed Stage I, may still qualify for the 3-year extension to their certificate.

The deadline for 2010 Diplomates to complete Family Medicine Certification requirements in Stage II is **December 31, 2016!**

2007 Diplomates who received extension to 10-year certificate.

Need to complete Stage III this year. Prerequisite to be approved for Family Medicine Certification Examination. Certification Examination application opens **December 2016.**

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CME

Awarded by the American Academy of Family Physicians



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 - Phone: 877-223-7437
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- **Nichole Lainhart, Program Manager Family Medicine Certification Alternative Activities**
 - Email: NLainhart@theabfm.org
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Support Center Assistance



877-223-7437

- Manned by ABFM Staff located in the ABFM home office
- Able to answer questions regarding all phases of ABFM business

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Extended Hours Available!

8:00 am - 9:00 pm
(eastern)
Monday - Friday
&
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(eastern)
Saturday

Live chat available from
ABFM Home page



2 Minute Rule

Have a Question after 2 minutes?
Contact our Support Center!!

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Family Medicine Certification Examination: Cognitive Expertise

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Cognitive Expertise

- **All** candidates take the same examination
- **All** candidates will choose **2 modules** of 45 questions each over which to be tested during the morning exam session

Ambulatory Family Medicine	Maternity Care
Child & Adolescent Care	Emergent/Urgent Care
Geriatrics	Hospital Medicine
Women's Health	Sports Medicine

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Family Medicine
Certification Examination
is offered in **April** and **November**
of each year.



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BEGIN the formal application **prior to the deadline** to avoid late filing fees

- to be able to access the application, all required modules must be paid for/and or started
(completion of the modules is not required to start the application but all modules must be complete by the deadline for clearing deficiencies)
- **IMPORTANT!!!** Advance beyond the payment page of the application
- go back to the application to choose a test date and test center as soon as all deficiencies are cleared (including completion of all modules)

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2016 Fall Family Medicine Certification Examination Deadlines

Fall 2016 Certification Examination Deadline	Date
Registration Begins	July 22, 2016
*Deadline to submit application without a late fee	August 22, 2016
Final Deadline to submit application with a \$100 late fee	September 15, 2016
Certification Examination Dates	November 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
Certification Examination Results	To Be Announced

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2017 Spring Family Medicine Certification Examination Deadlines

Spring 2017 Certification Examination Deadline	Date
Registration Begins	December 2, 2016
*Deadline to submit application without a late fee	January 20, 2017
Final Deadline to submit application with a \$100 late fee	February 24, 2017
Certification Examination Dates	April 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 14, 15, 17, 18 & 19, 2017
Certification Examination Results	To Be Announced

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ABFM Mobile Site

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ABFM Exam Prep App




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Family Medicine Certification Examination Preparation Assistance

Preparation Tools Available on ABFM Website:



- Videos Outlining Study Plans
- Study Tips
- 2-Week Checklist
- Exam Tutorial

Access these tools on the ABFM website www.theabfm.org

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Performance Improvement Alternatives

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Approved Performance Improvement Alternatives (100% Credit)

(Examples of Approved Performance Improvement Alternatives)

- American Academy of Family Physicians (METRIC)
- Multi-Specialty Portfolio Approval Program (MSPP) Sponsor organization activities
- New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians (NJAFP) module Performance in Practice Colorectal Cancer Screening
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
 - Physician Recognition Programs (PRPs)
 - Approved PRPs include: Diabetes, Heart Disease/Stroke, and Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)
 - Individual-level certificates of recognition in Diabetes, Heart Disease/Stroke, or PCMH can be submitted for Part IV credit
 - Organization-level certificates of recognition require additional physician attestation to be considered for Part IV credit

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Visit the ABFM website for the complete current list of

Approved Outside Vendor Activities

www.theabfm.org

**(listed under the Family Medicine Certification Section- click Performance Improvement)*

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Self-Directed Performance Improvement Activity

All activities must:

- Be developed using evidence-based criteria and national standards
- Ensure the physician is meaningfully involved
- Incorporate pre- and post-intervention evaluation of the physician's performance using evidence-based quality indicators
- Include the development and implementation of an individualized plan for improvement

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Self-Directed Performance Improvement Activity

- The required application can be accessed through the physician portfolio
- Submission of an application does not guarantee Performance Improvement activity credit
- Approval occurs on a case-by-case basis
- Allow up to 8 weeks for the review process



Specific Information about the Self-Directed activity can be found in your Physician Portfolio

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PRIME Support and Alignment Network

- The American Board of Family Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians have teamed up in the PRIME Support and Alignment Network, joining state level Practice Transformation Networks in the landmark Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative <http://primenavigator.org/primesan/>.
- Practice Transformation Networks (PTN) provide free practice level management and quality improvement assistance to help practices maximize reimbursements, improve quality, and streamline reporting demands under the CMS Quality Payment Program (MIPS and APMs).
- Diplomates of the ABFM have a unique opportunity to get free practice transformation assistance through a state level Practice Transformation Network (PTN) and the added benefit of Performance Improvement activities credit. The first 6,000 board-certified family physicians who sign up will also get free access to the PRIME Registry for three years (all primary care colleagues, including NPs and PAs, may enroll for a reduced subscription rate of \$360 per year per clinician with no additional onboarding costs).

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PRIME Support and Alignment Network

Step 1:
Email Support@primesan.org with your name, practice location, ABFM ID & NPI and the same for any practice colleagues you would like to register (please add ABMS specialty for non-family medicine providers).

Step 2:
Join a Practice Transformation Network (PTN) in your state. You will receive an email from us with state-specific PTN enrollment information and confirmation you are in the queue as one of the first 6,000 ABFM board-certified family physicians to get the PRIME Registry for free.

Note: your practice is not eligible to enroll in a PTN if you currently participate in any of the following: Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP), Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) including the Next Generation ACO model, the CMS Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative (CPCI), or the CMS Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice (MAPCP) ACOs. You may, however, join a PTN if you are part of a Medicaid or private payer ACO program.

Step 3:
[Join the PRIME Registry](#)

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**HOW CAN WE HELP
YOU DO WHAT YOU
NEED TO DO NOW?**

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RESOURCES INCLUDE:

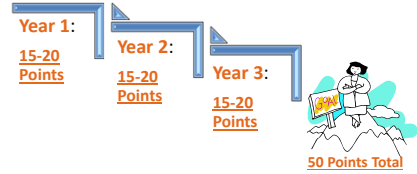
- SUPPORT CENTER
- LIVE CHAT ("LIVE HELP")
- THE PHOENIX
- WEBSITE
- EMAILS (PERIODIC)
- APP (EXAM PREP)
- KSA STUDY GROUP SUPPORT
- PQRS SUPPORT
- BOOTHS #540 & #543 @ AAFP FMX THIS YEAR
- PUBLICATIONS (eg: Daily Experience@ AAFP FMX)
- YOUTUBE CHANNEL
- PRESENTATIONS
 - Latest Family Medicine Certification Info
 - On-site Discussion
 - Invitations Welcome
 - State Chapter & Review Courses

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Timetable (not required, but helpful!)

Set a Goal of **15-20 Points Per Year!**



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Family Medicine Certification

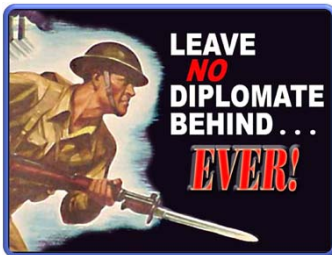
- Oldest Active Diplomate: **93 years young**
- Diplomates 70 years young and beyond: **1,365**



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ABFM Goal:



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QUESTIONS?

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Interested in More CME on this topic?
aafp.org/fmx-performance-improvement

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