ABFM's Family Medicine Certification: Recent (2016-17) Enhancements Which Favorably Impact You Now

Joseph Tollison, MD, FAAFP

Learning Objectives

2. Understand the most recent changes/modifications/enhancements to ABFM's Family Medicine Certification.
3. Develop an individualized strategy to successfully complete the Family Medicine Certification process.

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Joseph Tollison, MD, FAAFP

Senior Advisor to the President of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM); Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Family Medicine, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta

A graduate of The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, Dr. Tollison earned his medical degree at The Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston. He completed his postgraduate work at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, North Carolina, and served with the 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Army, in Vietnam. Nationally, he has served as president of the ABFM and the Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM); on the board of directors of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM); as a member of the Residency Review Committee for Family Medicine; and on several committees of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). He has received teaching and professional awards and honors, including the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians' Joseph W. Tollison, MD, Distinguished University Chair of Family Medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Tollison serves as a liaison for the ABFM's outreach projects with state and national organizations. Over the last ten years, he has traveled across the country presenting information concerning the ABFM's certification for family physicians and assisting physicians in the completion of the process.
The American Board of Family Medicine

MODIFIED/ENHANCED (NEW) REQUIREMENTS (PER 3-YEAR STAGE)

1. "EXAM CHANGES!"
2. CKSA (Continue Knowledge Self-Assessment)
3. New Performance Improvement Plan (PI) activity modifying PPM
4. PRIME Registry – Advantages for Family Physicians

Cognitive Examination

Family Medicine Certification Examination

2017 Changes-Cognitive Exam
- 320 multiple choice questions; previous 370 items
- Total exam time unchanged
- Select one module from eight options; previously, two modules required
- Pooled flexible break time; previously, break time fixed
- Enhanced computer-based exam experience
- Reduce Exam sections from five to four

Family Medicine Certification Examination

2017 Cognitive Exam
- All candidates (Certification & Continuous Certification) take the same examination
- All candidates will choose one module of 45 questions each over which to be tested during the morning exam session

CKSA (Continuous Knowledge Self-Assessment)

Available as of January 2017

Concepts:
(1) Twenty-five (25) questions per quarter; 2.5 points
(2) Rationale for correct answer provided
(3) Performance Report available (optional)
(4) Optional Completion Method for KSA
Performance Improvement Activities

Do you have Continuing Patient Care?

- **YES**
  - Performance Improvement Activities
  - Hand Hygiene with Simulated Patient Data
  - Self Directed Activity without Patient Data

- **NO**
  - Performance Improvement Activities
  - ABFM Approved Part IV
  - ABFM Self-Directed Activity without Patient Data

Performance Improvement Activities

NO Access to Continuing Patient Care?

Methods in Medicine Activities (MIMMs)

- **ABFM Products**
  - No additional charge beyond the cost of Family Medicine Certification
  - Current Topics:
    - Cultural Competency MIMMs
    - Hand Hygiene PPM (with simulated patient data)
    - ABFM Self-Directed Activity

Performance Improvement Activities

Performance Improvement Activities

PPM Alternatives

Performance Improvement Activities
Performance Improvement Activities

Approved Performance Improvement Alternatives

(Examples of Approved Performance Improvement Alternatives)

- American Academy of Family Physicians (METRIC)
- Multi-Sensory Portfolio Approval Program (MSPP) Sponsor organization activities
- New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians (NJAFP) Activity 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 Performance Improvement credit
  - Organization-level certificates of recognition require additional physician attestation to be considered for Performance Improvement credit

Visit the ABFM website for the complete current list of Approved External Activities
www.theabfm.org

Performance Improvement Activities

Alternate Support

- Nicole Lainhart, Program Manager Alternative Activities
  - Email: Nlainhart@theabfm.org
  - Phone: 877 223-7437, extension 1230

- Support Center
  - Phone: 877 223-7437
  - Email: help@theabfm.org
  - Live Chat

Performance Improvement Activities

PI – Future Considerations

PRIME Patient Data Registry

- Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) for reporting to MIPS and other payment models
- Data are extracted from practice (HRs) currently working with IHI Grid pedals
  - URIs data extraction is refined to fit clinicians documenting practices
  - Data are transformed into actionable quality measures that can be tracked for improving care, submitting for ABFM Family Medicine Continuing Certification, and to help you toward value-based payment models

For more information on the PRIME Registry, visit our website at:
http://primerегистral.org/primeregistry or email PRIME@theabfm.org
PRIME SAN
Prime Support and Alignment Network

- The American Board of Family Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians are working together in the PRIME Support and Alignment Network along with regional Practice Transformation Networks in the landmark federal Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative
- Family Physicians and their practice teams benefit in three ways:
  1. Enroll in free practice management and quality improvement assistance delivered by a regional Practice Transformation Network team; to help you succeed in MIPS and the CMS Quality Payment Program
  2. ABFM board-certified family physicians who enroll in a Practice Transformation Network are eligible to receive PRIME Registry subscription free for 3 years (for the first 6,000 who enroll – there are still open slots)
  3. All primary care colleagues, including NPs and PAs, may join the PRIME Registry for a reduced subscription rate of $360 per year per clinician.

For more information on how to enroll in a Practice Transformation Network (PTN), visit our website at http://primenavigator.org/primesan/ or email Support@primesan.org

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 (MAPACP) ACOs. You may, however, join a PTN if you are part of a Medicaid or private payer ACO program.

MODIFIED/ENHANCED (NEW) REQUIREMENTS (PER 3-YEAR STAGE)

1) Unlinking of SAMs
   - KSA (Knowledge Self-Assessment)
   - CSA (Clinical Self-Assessment)
2) 50 points
3) Discount (50%) – Age 70 and over

Continuous Certification
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
- Knowledge Self-Assessment = 10 points
- Clinical Self-Assessment (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)

REQUIREMENTS PER 3-YEAR STAGE

- 1 KSA (Knowledge Self-Assessment) – 10 points and
- 1 Performance Improvement activity – 20 points (PPM, PPM Alternative, MIMM)

THEN, YOUR CHOICE
(MIX & MATCH TO REACH THE MINIMUM OF 50 POINTS)
Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) to Become Two Separate Activities
(10-year Pathway)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Self-Assessment &amp; Evidence-Based Learning Activities</th>
<th>Performance Improvement</th>
<th>Contribution Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Option 1</td>
<td>2 CEUs, 2 SAMs, 2 Clinical Self-Assessment Activities</td>
<td>PI Activity</td>
<td>30 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option 2</td>
<td>3 CEUs, 3 SAMs, 3 Clinical Self-Assessment Activities</td>
<td>PI Activity</td>
<td>30 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lifelong Learning requirement includes completing continuing medical education activities equaling 300 CME credits in the last 6 years prior to the examination year. Self-Assessment activities, Performance Improvement activities with CME credits can be applied toward the CME requirement.

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**ABFM’s OVERARCHING APPROACH**

- ALIGNMENT
- REDUNDANCY

**MODIFIED/ENRICHED (NEW) REQUIREMENTS**

(PER 3-YEAR STAGE)

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(PER 3-YEAR STAGE) - I

2016

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   - CSA (Clinical Self-Assessment)
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3) Discount cost (50%) – Age 70 and over

The Phoenix

- Summer & Winter Edition Each Year
- Mailed and Emailed to All Diplomates
- PDF Available on ABFM Website

CME

Awarded by the American Academy of Family Physicians

KSA = 8 CME Credits
CSA = 4 CME Credits
PPM = 20 CME Credits
MIMM = 20 CME Credits
Cultural Competency MIMM = 9 CME Credits

ABFM Exam Prep App

Exam Preparation Assistance

Exam 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
Outreach Resources

RESOURCES INCLUDE:
• SUPPORT CENTER
• LIVE CHAT (“LIVE HELP”)  
• THE PHOENIX
• WEBSITE
• EMAILS (PERIODIC)
• APP (EXAM PREP)

Avoid Late Fees

BEGIN the formal application prior to the deadline to avoid late filing fees
— to be able to access the application, all required activities must be paid for/and or started (completion of the Certification Activities is not required to start the application but all Activities 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 Certification Activities)

Exam Deadlines

2018 Spring Exam Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2018 Exam Deadline</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Begins</td>
<td>December 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Deadline to submit application without a late fee</td>
<td>January 19, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Deadline to submit application with a $100 late fee</td>
<td>February 23, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Dates</td>
<td>April 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19</td>
</tr>
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<td>Exam Results</td>
<td>June 15 (tentative)</td>
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Continuous Certification

Timetable (not required but helpful)

Set a Goal of 15-20 Points Per Year!

Year 1: 15-20 Points
Year 2: 15-20 Points
Year 3: 15-20 Points
50 Points Total
It’s Not Too Late!

2008 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 2017.

2011 Diplomates who have completed Stage I, may still qualify for the 3-year extension to their certificate. The deadline for 2011 Diplomates to complete Family Medicine Certification requirements in Stage III is December 31, 2017!

2014 Diplomates must complete the Continuous Certification Requirements. The deadline for 2014 Diplomates to complete Family Medicine Certification requirements in Stage I is December 31, 2017!

How Can We Help?

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

Contact the ABFM

• Support Center
  – Phone: 877-223-7437
  – Email: help@theabfm.org
  – Live Chat
• Website
  – www.theabfm.org
• ABFM
  – Phone: 888-995-5700
  – Fax: 859-335-5701

ABFM Goal

LEAVE NO DIPLOMATE BEHIND...EVER!