Performan ce Improvement

Performance Improvement (PI or PI-CME) activities describe structured, long-term processes by which physicians learn about specific performance measures, retrospectively assess their practice, apply performance measures prospectively over a useful interval, and re-evaluate their performance. To award AAFP Prescribed credit for PI activities, CME providers must:

- Establish an oversight mechanism that assures content integrity of the selected performance measures. These measures must be evidence-based and well-designed (e.g., required data elements are clearly specified, data collection is feasible). Performance Improvement activities may address any facet of a physician’s practice that has direct implications for patient care (i.e., structure, process, or outcome).
- Provide clear instructions to the learner that define the educational process of the PI activity (e.g., documentation, timelines) and establish how the learner can claim credit.
- Validate the depth of physician participation by a review of submitted PI activity documentation. When requested, supply specific documentation of such credit to participating physicians.
- Provide adequate background information so that physicians can identify and understand: a) the performance measures that will guide their PI activity, and b) the evidence base for those measures. CME providers may deliver this education through live activities, enduring materials, or other means.
- Have an AAFP active or life member involved in the planning/review of the overall CME activity to ensure the content’s relevance to the specialty of family medicine.

To develop a complete, structured PI activity, CME providers must ensure that participating physicians integrate all of the following three stages:

**Stage A: Learning from current practice performance assessment**
Assess current practice using identified performance measures, either through chart reviews or some other appropriate mechanism. Participating physicians should be actively involved in data collection and analysis.

**Stage B: Learning from the application of performance improvement to patient care**
Implement an intervention based on the performance measures selected in Stage A using suitable tracking tools (e.g., flow sheets). Participating physicians should receive guidance on appropriate parameters for applying an intervention and assessing performance change, specific to the performance measure and the physician’s patient base (e.g., How many patients with a given condition, seen for how long, will produce a valid assessment?).

**Stage C: Learning from evaluation of the performance improvement effort**
Reevaluate and reflect on performance in practice (Stage B) by comparing to the assessment done in Stage A. Summarize any practice, process, and/or outcome changes that resulted from conducting the PI activity.
When submitting a Performance Improvement activity, the following criteria applies:

- Activity delivery and participation methods.
- Description of how learner participation is verified.
- Physicians may claim an additional five credits for completing, in sequence, all three stages.
- A maximum of 20 credits is awarded per activity.
- Term of approval is for two years.

Information from: http://www.aafp.org/cme/creditsys/about/activity-types.html#pip