



American Board of Family Medicine

Self-Directed Performance Improvement Activity

The Self-Directed Performance Improvement (PI) Project pathway allows you to report customized improvement projects, regardless of the scope of care you deliver. This pathway can be used to satisfy the Performance Improvement requirement for continuing certification. Some key things to know about this pathway:

- You may report a project you conducted alone or participated in within a single practice group, an ACO, or other larger group practices
- You can use this pathway whether you see patients in a continuity setting, or if you are providing non-continuity episodic care (e.g., hospitalist, telemedicine, locums, urgent care, emergency department, etc.)

What information will you need to provide?

- **The start and end date of the improvement project.** Your credit is applied as of the end date of the project, once it is confirmed to have meet the ABFM PI Requirements.
- **If externally funded, how the project was funded.** The project must meet the ABFM Industry Support policy that prohibits pharmaceutical and device manufacturer influence on activities for certification credit.
- **The relevant topic areas for the project.** Select one or more topic areas to categorize the project.
- **What problem or gap in quality was the project intended to address?** An example of a gap might be influenza vaccination rates in your practice that were consistently lower than the national standard, resulting in an increased frequency of flu among your patients.
- **As a result of identifying the gap in quality, what did the project aim to accomplish?** An aim statement is a clear, quantifiable goal set within a specific time frame. It states **what** you tried to change, **by how much**, and **by when**. An aim statement is broken into three parts:
 - **What did you try to change?** (e.g., we aimed to improve our practice's influenza vaccination rate)
 - **What was your improvement goal?** (e.g., improving our rate to 85% compliance)
 - **What was the timeframe for this to be accomplished?** (e.g., within 9 months)
- **What measures were used in the project to evaluate progress?** Measures are directly related to the aim statement, showing whether a project's changes are resulting in improvement. An example measure might be:
 - **Measure Name:** Influenza vaccination compliance
 - **Goal:** 85%
 - **Data Source:** Electronic Medical Record

- **Collection Frequency:** Monthly
- **Number of Patient Records:** 25 or more
- **The results of the improvement project.** Upload an attachment of de-identified aggregate results data.
- **The interventions or changes that were made during the project.** An example intervention might be education for your clinical staff on the importance of this vaccine, added compliance check in the patient's Electronic Medical Record, and utilizing pamphlets on this vaccine in well-patient visits.
- **How were you involved in the project?** Were you the project leader? Did you review the data periodically to assess improvement? Were you part of the team that designed the project and reviewed the results? Were you an active participant in deciding on the intervention(s)? Demonstration of active involvement in the improvement process is necessary for approval of a self-directed activity.

Ready to get started?

Login to your ABFM Physician Portfolio at <https://www.theabfm.org>, select Access Performance Improvement Activities from the main screen, and choose the **ABFM Self-Directed Performance Improvement Project: Clinical**.

The screenshot shows the 'Family Medicine Certification Activities' page. The 'Performance Improvement Activities' tab is selected. The page displays a list of activities with filters on the left. The activity 'ABFM Self-Directed Performance Improvement Project: Clinical' is highlighted with a red box. The activity details include:

- Activity Title:** ABFM Self-Directed Performance Improvement Project: Clinical
- Sponsor:** American Board of Family Medicine
- Topic Area:** Access to care, Asthma, Behavioral health, Burnout/clinical well-being, Cancer, Cardiovascular, Child and adolescent health, CLABSI, Communication, Community health, Decision support, Diabetes, Documentation, Efficiency, Emergency medicine, Geriatric medicine, Hand Hygiene, Health literacy, Hypertension, Immunizations/vaccinations, Laboratory testing/imaging studies, Maternity care, Obesity, Opioid use, Patient adherence, Patient education, Patient engagement, Patient safety, Prescriptions, Preventive care, Readmissions, Satisfaction, Sepsis, Sports medicine, Teamwork, Transitions of care, Other
- PI Requirement:** ✓
- Points:** 20
- Web-based:** Yes

Need help?

Contact us for assistance with selecting an improvement project you have already completed or identifying improvement opportunities in your scope of care.



help@theabfm.org



877-223-7437