

# Self-Directed Clinical Performance Improvement



The Self-Directed Clinical Performance Improvement (PI) pathway allows you to report customized improvement efforts, regardless of the type of practice or the scope of care you deliver. This pathway can be used to satisfy the Performance Improvement requirement for continuing certification.

## What Information Will You Need to Provide?

- 1. 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 met the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) PI requirements.
- 2. 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.
- 3. The relevant topic areas for the project.**

Select one or more topic areas from the drop-down list provided in order to categorize the project.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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 time frame for this to be accomplished?  
*e.g., within 9 months*
- 6. 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.

**EXAMPLE:**

  - Measure Name:** Influenza vaccination compliance
  - Goal:** 85%
  - Data Source:** Electronic Medical Record
  - Collection Frequency:** Monthly
  - Number of Patient Records:** 25 or more

## Key Things to Know

- You may report on an improvement effort you conducted alone or within a single practice group, an ACO, other larger group practices or other organization coordinating quality improvement activities.
- 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.).

## Information Needed *continued*

### 7. The results of the improvement effort.

Provide the baseline and follow-up percentage or number meeting the stated measure(s).

### 8. The interventions or changes that were made during the project.

A sample intervention might be education for your clinical staff on the importance of this vaccine, an added compliance check, and utilization of pamphlets on this vaccine during a well-patient visit.

### 9. How were you involved in the project?

Demonstration of active involvement in the improvement process is necessary for approval of a self-directed activity.

- 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)?

## Ready to get started?

Log into your **MyABFM Portfolio**, select Performance Improvement activities from the main screen. On the PI screen you can click on View All Activities and choose Self-Directed Clinical from the list.

The screenshot displays the MyABFM Portfolio interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with options: PORTFOLIO, ACTIVITIES, PROFILE, SUPPORT, and LOGOUT. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with tabs: CURRENT ACTIVITIES, SELF-ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES (highlighted), and ACTIVITY HISTORY. The main content area shows the path: PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PREFERENCES > ACTIVITY SEARCH > ACTIVITY. The selected activity is 'Self-directed Clinical', sponsored by the American Board of Family Medicine. A 'BOOKMARK ACTIVITY' button is visible in the top right. The 'DESCRIPTION' section explains the Self-Directed Performance Improvement (PI) Project pathway and lists key things to know, including that projects can be conducted alone or in a group, and can be used in various settings like continuity of care, telemedicine, etc. A search bar asks 'What information will you need to provide?'. Below this are 'Participation Requirements' (Open access) and 'LENGTH OF TIME'. On the right side, there are criteria: 'Meets PI Requirement' (checked), '20 Points', and 'Web-based'. A 'START' button is at the bottom right, and a 'Live Chat' button is in the bottom right corner.

## Support Center

ABFM is here to support you in your certification efforts. Our Support Center agents will answer your questions or direct you to the right person who can meet your needs. We are available by phone, email or live chat.

**PHONE:** 877-223-7437

**FAX:** 859-335-7516

**EMAIL:** [help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org)

**LIVE CHAT:** [theabfm.org](http://theabfm.org) –  
Locate live chat at top of page

**HOURS:** Monday–Friday: 8 AM – 9 PM (Eastern)  
Saturday: 9 AM – 5 PM (Eastern)



**American Board  
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