How to complete an:
Improvement in Medical Practice (PIP) Unit

Diplomates now choose ONE Clinical Module OR ONE Feedback Module activity to complete the PIP Unit.

Clinical Chart Review Module
This quality improvement exercise is designed to identify and implement areas for improvement based on the review of one’s own patient charts. A diplomate can choose one of the following options:

- Select a Clinical Module from the ABPN Approved Products List
- Participate in your institution’s quality improvement (QI) effort that is approved by the ABMS Portfolio Program
- Participate in an approved registry such as the Axon Registry from the American Academy of Neurology
- Participate in a Joint Commission Certified Primary or Comprehensive Stroke Center
- Participate in a Joint Commission accredited, specialty-specific Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation (OPPE) that meets the ABPN MOC requirements; submit for preapproval
- Complete a quality improvement effort under the auspices of an International Certification Organization (e.g. RCPS-C) that meets the ABPN MOC requirements; submit for preapproval or
- Seek individual preapproval (at no charge) for your own developed Clinical Module, or your institution’s quality improvement efforts

Patient or Peer Feedback Module
This quality improvement exercise is designed to identify and implement areas for improvement based on feedback from patients or peers via a questionnaire/survey.

With a Feedback Module, preapproval is not needed if the questionnaire/survey meets general competencies. The six general competencies to be reviewed on the feedback forms are medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, patient care and system-based practices. A diplomate can collect feedback using one of the following options:

- Select a Feedback Module from the ABPN Approved Products List
- Collect patient* feedback from five patients
- Collect peer** feedback from five peers
- Collect resident evaluations from five respondents
- Collect 360 degree evaluations from five respondents
- Obtain institutional peer reviews from five respondents or
- Obtain a supervisor evaluation from one supervisor

Model feedback forms are available on the ABPN Approved Products List at no cost.

* Patients may include those for which the diplomate supervises the care of another provider (e.g., resident)
** Peers may include other professional healthcare staff such as counselors, nurses, physicians, psychologists, and social workers
How to Complete a PIP Clinical Module

Step A: Initial assessment of five patient charts
• Collect data from at least five of your own patient charts in a specific category (diagnosis, type of treatment, or treatment setting) obtained from your practice over the previous three-year period.
• Compare the data from the five patient cases with published best practices, practice guidelines, or peer-based standards of care (e.g., hospital QI programs, standard practice guidelines published by specialty societies), using a minimum of four quality measures.

Step B: Identify and implement improvement
• Based on results from chart reviews, develop and carry out a plan to improve effectiveness and/or efficiency of your medical practice.
• If no areas for improvement are determined based on initial assessment, then maintenance of performance in medical practice should be reassessed in Step C.

Step C: Reassessment of five patient charts
• Within 24 months of initial assessment, collect data from another five of your own patient charts (may use same or different patients).
• Use the same category and practice guidelines for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.

How to Complete a PIP Feedback Module

Step A: Initial assessment of patient or peer feedback
• Diplomates must obtain personal performance feedback from either their peers or patients regarding their own clinical activity during the previous three years.
• Diplomates choose ONE type of feedback from one of the approved Feedback Modules.

Step B: Identify and implement improvement
• Based on results from feedback, diplomates must then identify opportunities for improvement to the effectiveness and/or efficiency in their practice as related to the general competencies and take steps to implement improvements as needed.
• If no areas for improvement are determined based on initial assessment, then maintenance of performance in medical practice should be reassessed in Step C.

Step C: Reassessment of patient or peer feedback
• Within 24 months of initial assessment, collect data from another set of the same or different patients or peers.
• Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.

General Information About the PIP Unit
• Please allow ample time to complete the PIP Unit (Steps A, B and C).
• Use the same feedback option for the initial assessment and reassessment steps.
• One PIP Unit is required every 3 years for the C-MOC program.
• ABPN does not collect patient or peer data. If audited, ABPN will require that diplomates explain how they carried out the Improvement in Medical Practice Unit and submit information about their process and improvement plan. The ABPN Audit Guidelines for Diplomates document on the website lists the documentation needed in the event of an audit.

See www.abpn.com for more detailed information on the PIP requirement.

Note: Only those diplomates in the 2013-2015 C-MOC block must complete BOTH a Clinical Module and a Feedback Module for that specific C-MOC block.