HCMC Family Medicine Residency Program

Policy on Lifelong Learning and Use of In-Training Exam Scores – Academic Enhancement and Performance Improvement Plan

Purpose:
To encourage efficient lifelong learning. To provide guidance for residents regarding interpretation of the ABFM in-training exam scores and to describe the performance improvement plans which may need to be implemented in areas of knowledge deficiency. To achieve a 100% pass rate for first time takers on the ABFM Certification examination.

Procedure:
It is the goal of the HCMC Family Medicine Residency to create an environment that fosters scholarship and lifelong learning.

The American Board of Family Medicine (www.theabfm.org) administers an In-Training Examination (ITE) annually in November. This exam is absolutely critical to your education. While no exam is ever a surrogate for your abilities as a current and future clinician, the standardized exam is a time-honored, objective method of assessing a fund of knowledge on which clinical knowledge depends. The in-training exam also correlates with future scores on the ABFM Board Certification Exam and is closely monitored by the residency and by the Family Medicine Residency Review Committee for the ACGME. Thus, preparation for the ITE and for the ABFM Boards is important.

This policy describes a plan for lifelong that assists residents in longitudinal Board preparation as well as to help residents meet these benchmarks or remediate to attain benchmarks on the next ITE.

Plan:

A. **Lifelong learning:**
All residents will
Read **twice monthly AFP journal and complete each quiz** (2 per month).
- Log on to the AAFP website: [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org).
- You must use your own username and password to obtain access to the site and appropriate CME credit. If you do not remember your username and password, contact AAFP at 800-274-2237.
- Sign in to AFP quizzes: [AFP CME Quizzes](http://www.aafp.org).
- Complete the quiz twice monthly
- One of the core teaching faculty will review key questions from the AFP journal once per month during the Structured Board Review
- Report CME from quiz completion on your AAFP CME site.
- Print copy of transcript from AAFP website and place in portfolio for biannual review.

B. **Intraining examination**
The ABFM has identified a set of internal benchmarks for the Intraining examination exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yr of Training</th>
<th>ITE Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G1</td>
<td>390</td>
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<tr>
<td>G2</td>
<td>410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G3</td>
<td>440</td>
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Individual education plans are described below to help residents meet these benchmarks or remediate to attain benchmarks the next ITE.
1. RESIDENT MEETS BENCHMARK FOR YEAR OF TRAINING:

Review your ITE results. Log on to the ABFM website. You will need your username & password. Review your board score, z-score, ITE questions (highlighted questions are the ones that are incorrect). Review your incorrect answers. Use exam answer book for rationale. Focus your study in the content areas where you had difficulty.

Continue current study plan; consider using resources for self-study provided in this document.

Residents may choose to complete 10 board review questions weekly; choose topic areas for board questions based on performance on ITE and focus on areas where performance was suboptimal.

- Log on to the AAFP website: www.aafp.org
- You must use your own username and password to obtain access to the site and appropriate CME credit. If you do not remember your username and password, contact AAFP at 800-274-2237.
  - Sign into the Sample Board Questions.
    - AAFP Sample Board Review Questions
    - After you complete the board review section you have selected, it will automatically score, have answer explanations, and will list your completion on your CME tracker.
- Print out CME verification from AAFP website and place in portfolio for bimonthly review. CME verification is in your CME tracker on the AAFP website.

2. RESIDENT IS BELOW BENCHMARK FOR YEAR OF TRAINING:

Basic Study
All training years:
1. Review your ITE results. Log on to the ABFM website. You will need your username & password. Review your board score, z-score, ITE questions (highlighted questions are the ones that are incorrect).
2. Review your incorrect answers. Use exam answer book for rationale
3. Focus your study in the content areas where you had difficulty.
4. Meet with faculty advisor to discuss results

Level 1 performance improvement
-0.7≥Z score ≤ 0
(Between the 25th and the 50th percentile):

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL STUDY
PGY3 only
Complete 10 board review questions weekly; choose topic areas for board questions based on performance on ITE and focus on areas where performance was suboptimal.

- Log on to the AAFP website: www.aafp.org
- You must use your own username and password to obtain access to the site and appropriate CME credit. If you do not remember your username and password, contact AAFP at 800-274-2237.
- Sign into the Sample Board Questions.
  - AAFP Sample Board Review Questions
    - After you complete the board review section you have selected, it will automatically score, have answer explanations, and will list your completion on your CME tracker.
- Print out CME verification from AAFP website. Give a copy to Peg Sullivan. Keep a copy for portfolio for bimonthly review

PGY2 and PGY1:
Enroll in Exam Master and follow the details of the remediation plan sent to you by Margaret Sullivan
Level 2 performance improvement
Z score < - 0.7
(< 25th percentile)

ADDITIONAL MANDATORY STUDY
PGY3
Referral to Marilyn Becker for Exam preparation and Test taking strategies if you have not already done so (Please discuss with your advisor and Abby Kirschner who will help you to make the arrangements)

Do FP comprehensive questions
Every month, resident will be assigned 50 questions from FP Comprehensive by Dr Petersen. Resident must meet once per month with a faculty educational consultant (person to be determined) for review of exam questions. Resident must keep a log that they have completed the assignment. Log must be signed by educational consultant and reviewed with faculty advisor at quarterly evaluation meetings.

PGY2
Enroll in Exam Master and follow the details of the Level 2 remediation plan sent to you by Margaret Sullivan
Referral to Marilyn Becker for Exam preparation and Test taking strategies (Please discuss with your advisor and Abby Kirschner who will help you to make the arrangements)

PGY1
Enroll in Exam Master and follow the details of the Level 2 remediation plan sent to you by Margaret Sullivan

Compliance means:
After in-training exam, meet with faculty mentor to develop IEP (required portions of IEP listed below). Meet monthly with faculty mentor and review IEP progress. Completion of Exam Master (PGY1 and PGY2) or FP Comprehensive modules (PGY3) as defined Completion of all biweekly AFP journal quizzes (and documentation) on schedule. Compliance with IEP will be reviewed quarterly at resident review.

Failure to comply with this plan may result in academic probation
Resources For Board Examination

Free Resources:  (Updated 1/2011)
From the American Board of Family medicine (ABFM) American Board of Family Medicine

- ABFM Exam Content:  https://www.theabfm.org/cert/CertRecertExaminationOutline.pdf
- ABFM Self Assessment Modules (SAM):  You will need to use your individual username & password to sign in (same as info you used for the ambulatory rotation sign-in)

American Family Physicians www.aafp.org

- The American Family Physician (AAFP)
- 2009 FP Comprehensive CD
- American Family Physician CME quizzes
- AAFP Homestudy Program
- AAFP Home Study Audio CD:

Other

- The Core Content Review of Family Medicine
- The Journal of Family Practice

Original Date:  2006  
Revision Date:  1/2011