



ABMS PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

In This Issue

[ABMS Patient Safety Courses Updated](#)

[Three ABMS Courses Now Available](#)

[Over 900 Course Completions, Positive Feedback Received](#)

[Physician Use Update](#)

[Contact Information](#)

ABMS Patient Safety Courses Updated

Recognizing that patient safety knowledge and best practices are constantly evolving, ABMS recently completed a content review of all [three ABMS patient safety courses](#).

A team of nationally recognized quality improvement and patient safety experts evaluated the programs and provided updates with the latest literature references and best practices. All three programs will be updated by the end of March 2009.

Three ABMS Courses Now Available

ABMS now offers three affordable, flexible, Web-based patient safety courses to meet a wider array of provider education needs, all of which earn CME and support ABMS Maintenance of Certification[®] (ABMS MOC[®]).

1. **ABMS[®] Patient Safety Improvement Program** is the longest, most robust course, and incorporates core curriculum in key patient safety topics (Epidemiology, Systems, Communications and Safety Culture), assessment methods, case scenarios, and seven separate choices of improvement activities that apply to every medical discipline and practice setting. Pre- and post- knowledge tests are provided in the curriculum sections to assure knowledge acquisition.
2. **ABMS[®] Patient Safety Foundations** is the core curriculum, and covers the same, essential topics found in the course above: Epidemiology, Systems, Communications and Safety Culture. The Patient Safety Foundations course includes pre- and post- knowledge tests on each topic to assure knowledge acquisition.
3. **ABMS[®] Quality Improvement in Practice** includes QI curriculum, and seven choices of practice improvement activities that require the physician to demonstrate both knowledge and behavior change. This course also includes improvement activity simulations for non-practicing physicians.

These ABMS programs deliver a solid foundation in patient safety concepts that all physicians, from medical residents to seasoned professionals, can apply in their own practice settings. They contain tools and techniques that improve patient safety by identifying and analyzing areas for improvement, and implementing changes based on best practices.

The following chart compares all three ABMS Patient Safety programs:

ABMS Patient Safety Portfolio	ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program	ABMS Patient Safety Foundations	ABMS Quality Improvement in Practice
Content Included			
Core Curriculum Sections (Epidemiology, Systems, Communication, Safety Culture)	x	x	
Quality Improvement Fundamentals	x		x
Performance Improvement Activities	x		x
AMA PRA Category I Credit			
Practicing Physicians	20 ¹	2.5 ²	20 ¹
Nonpracticing Physicians	7.5 ²	2.5 ²	3 ²
ABMS Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC)	Part IV ³ Part II ⁴	Part II ⁴	Part IV ³

1 - Based on AMA PRA Category 1 Guidelines for Performance Improvement Activities

2 - Based on AMA PRA Category 1 Guidelines for Enduring Activities

3 - Based on individual ABMS Member Board Requirements

4 - Based on MOC Requirements for all MOC-enrolled diplomates, effective 2010

Over 900 Course Completions, Positive Feedback Received

We continue to receive positive feedback from physicians completing the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program (Part IV version). Over 900 physicians have completed the program to date. Among the comments received are the following:

"The content was very practical and useful in every day practice as well as in the hospital setting."

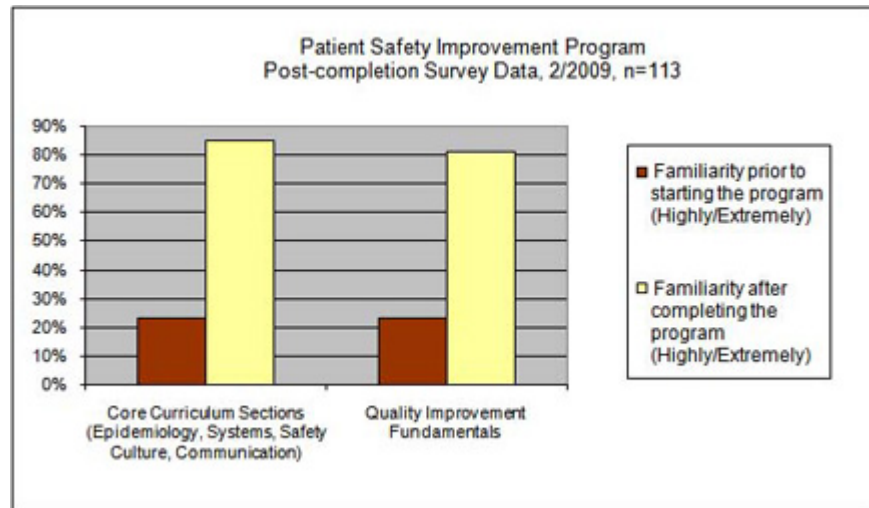
"Learning and updating practices is always important. This was a thought-provoking format."

"I think this was a complete and accurate account of the literature and we should ALL implement these activities and practices in order to better clinicians."

"This was an excellent overview and relevant fact of life for all in the medical field!"

Importantly, self-reported familiarity with patient safety topics increased significantly among those who responded to our completion survey (n=113),

- After completing the program, 85% reported that they were highly or extremely familiar with patient safety topics, compared to 28% before starting the program.



In addition,

- 95% believe that patient safety and quality improvement techniques they acquired in the course would improve patient safety in their practice
- 86% will apply the patient safety and quality improvement techniques they learned in their practice.

By requiring patient safety education as part of the ABMS MOC process, ABMS Member Boards recognize the need for all physicians to have a solid foundation in patient safety concepts and further demonstrates the commitment of all board certified physicians to deliver the highest quality, safest care.

Physician Use Update

Physicians representing nearly every discipline represented by ABMS Member Boards have completed the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program, signaling their recognition that the program applies to their specialty and practice setting. Many of these physicians have completed the course through Blue Cross Blue Shield member companies or other entities that offer the program through their institutions, and self-identified themselves as practicing a particular specialty or as a diplomate from a specific ABMS Member Board.

**ABMS
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We look forward to discussing the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program with you. Please use the following information to contact us:

For information regarding this newsletter or the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program, please contact ABMS at (847) 491-9091 option 5, or patientsafety@abms.org.

For information regarding how to offer the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program within your organization, please contact HealthStream at 1-800-933-9293 or abms@healthstream.com.

Please visit the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program Web page at http://www.abms.org/Products_and_Publications/Performance_Improvement/PSIP.aspx for additional information and updates.

ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program Newsletter is an e-newsletter from the American Board of Medical Specialties, a national not-for-profit organization representing 24 Medical Boards. For more information, contact ABMS at patientsafety@abms.org or (847) 491-9091. Visit our Web site at www.abms.org or write to American Board of Medical Specialties, 1007 Church Street, Suite 404, Evanston, IL 60201.