

Family Health Advocate at <http://www.family-healthadvocate.org/> was created as part of the Academy's "bold champion" initiative to support the AAFP's legislative advocacy agenda with consumers. The site's purpose is to inform patients and consumers about the Academy's advocacy issues and to motivate them to make their voices heard about those issues on family physicians' behalf.

According to information on the Web site, patients play an invaluable role in the health care system and need to have their voices count on issues that affect their health and that of their family members. "Your voice counts," notes the site. "Join us and become a family health advocate to help make sure the health care system supports you. Together, we can send the message that the health care system needs to change, and it needs to change now."

The site, which had a "soft" launch early in 2008, uses the Academy's consumer Web site familydoctor.org as a springboard to reach the 2.5 million health care consumers that visit familydoctor.org each month.

Family Health Advocate features articles about advocacy issues that are important to family physicians and Web tools that make it easy for patients to contact their elected officials about these issues. The Medicare payment cut, the patient-centered medical home and health care reform all have been topics featured on the site.

Visitors to the site also can sign up to receive monthly e-mail newsletters and action alert e-mail notifications that focus on "hot" legislative issues and ask users to take immediate action by contacting their elected officials. Included in each action alert is a link to letter templates and contact information for legislators on a state-by-state basis. Action alerts sent in June to registered users of Family Health Advocate resulted in a significant percentage of those users contacting their legislators to urge a favorable vote on the Medicare payment bill.

Although primarily focused on advocacy issues, Family Health Advocate also includes stories on health care tools and tips for patients, AAFP programs and initiatives, and some clinical information.

*Editors
AAFP News Now*



**From the American
Board of Family Medicine**

Ann Fam Med 2008;6:472. DOI: 10.1370/afm.892.

NEW ALTERNATIVES IN MC-FP PART IV MODULES

Every ABFM Diplomate will be required to complete a Part IV module during the Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) process. Part IV modules include the Performance in Practice Module (PPM), approved alternatives, and now available, the Methods in Medicine Module (MIMM), as well as the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program.

Roughly 20% of ABFM Diplomates practice in environments in which they do not have access to a continuity practice that they can utilize for PPMs. The MIMMs now provide a Part IV alternative for Diplomates in these professional roles. The MIMM is designed to mirror the process of pre-intervention audit, the conduct of a quality improvement activity, and the post-intervention audit used in the PPMs. The PPM and the MIMM modules are included in the MC-FP process fees.

Diplomates can access the ABMS Patient Safety Improvement Program through the ABFM Web site or at <http://www.healthstream.com/hlc/abfm/>. Diplomates will be asked to log in and pay a fee of \$55 to HealthStream, the organization that delivers the module for ABMS. You will also be required to provide your ABFM ID number to HealthStream in order for the ABFM to confirm your completion of the Patient Safety Improvement Program. Once you've provided HealthStream with your ABFM ID number, the ABFM will access your records with HealthStream and award the MC-FP credit for completing the Patient Safety Improvement Program as long as ABFM MC-FP fees are current.

If you need help with logging in or completing modules, or if you have any questions regarding your current MC-FP status, please contact our Support Center at 877-223-7437 or via email at help@theabfm.com for assistance.

*Communications
American Board of Family Medicine*