



PRIME SAN

Supporting and aligning your professional activities with practice transformation to help bring joy back to practice!

A Special Edition of
THE PHOENIX



How the ABFM is Supporting Practice Transformation

It has been a very productive first year of the PRIME Support and Alignment Network (SAN). More than 7,500 family physicians signed up for a Practice Transformation Network to take advantage of Medicare-funded services. The ABFM and AAFP are offering these family physicians Performance Improvement Activity credit and free PRIME Registry enrollment to respect and add further value to their commitment to transforming their clinical practices. If you've still not heard about this opportunity and would like to learn more, email support@primesan.org or please check out

<http://primenavigator.org/primesan/>

<https://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Transforming-Clinical-Practices/>

<http://www.aafp.org/practice-management/transformation/tcpi.html>

In this special issue of The Phoenix, we're sharing our efforts on your behalf in year one of the PRIME SAN initiative, as well as the experiences of your colleagues in preparing for value-based payments and enhanced primary care capacity.

In future issues, we look forward to sharing stories from our champion clinicians who have streamlined their practice transformation, quality improvement, and family medicine continuing certification efforts, and are bringing joy back to their practices!

Robert L. Phillips, Jr., MD, MSPH, ABFM Vice President for Research and Policy

Elizabeth M. Bishop, PhD, MS, ABFM PRIME SAN Program Manager

How Do You Measure the Value of Family Medicine?

The PRIME Registry starts with 41 clinical and prevention measures because they are useful for meeting family physicians' reporting requirements and because they are useful for assessing quality across your patient population. However, ABFM is concerned that the measures currently used to assess your practice do not adequately measure your value as physicians. The PRIME Registry has the authority to create new measures and the ABFM is working with the Robert Graham Center and other collaborators to build the case for new measures that better measure family medicine's value. Our goal is for these new ones to qualify for value-based payments and to align with your quality improvement efforts.

**7,828 Family
Physicians Supported
with Free Assistance to
Date!**

**7,828 Diplomates
enrolled in a
PTN are now
attesting for their
Family Medicine
Continuing
Certification
Performance
Improvement
activity credit
(formerly called Part
IV credit) for their
PTN participation
and are eligible
to receive their
PRIME Registry
subscription and
onboarding free for
up to 3 years.**



Meet the PRIME SAN Team



Elizabeth Bishop

ABFM PRIME SAN Program Manager is experienced in health services research, clinical quality measurement, and leading innovation projects



Tracey Allen-Ehrhart

AAFP Center for Quality Manager



Elizabeth Skees

ABFM PRIME SAN Project Coordinator, experienced ABFM licensure expert



Kristen A. Stine

AAFP Practice Transformation Strategist

Sarah Hajjar (not pictured)

ABFM PRIME Registry Manager, experienced project manager leading complex projects

The PRIME SAN and Registry team is working closely with many AFP state chapter leaders in addition to their AAFP colleagues. They have been invited to attend the CMS Quality Conference and the Healthcare Payment Learning and Action Network Summit to offer input on better primary care quality measures as part of the CMS Quality Payment Program.

The ABFM PRIME team was also the only primary care winner of the National Quality Forum (NQF) Measure Incubator™ Innovation Challenge, proposing combined potential benefits for one quality improvement activity by turning your practice quality measures and Performance Improvement Activity into Clinical Practice Improvement Activities for value-based payments.

The AAFP team created the Transforming Clinical Practice Member Interest Group, <http://www.aafp.org/about/member-interest-groups/mig/tcpi.html>, for peer support and learning. They also held three CME sessions at the Family Medicine Experience (FMX) conference to share information about Practice Transformation Network engagement and other Medicare demonstration projects.



The PRIME Support and Alignment Network and the PRIME Registry

ABFM Diplomates participating in a Practice Transformation Network—as part of the \$684 million dollar Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative—are eligible for up to 3 years of free enrollment in the PRIME Registry along with access to a Practice Improvement Activity which will qualify for Family Medicine Certification requirements. This effort is to honor what we know is the hard work associated with transforming your practice.

Recall that the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative was designed to provide outpatient care practices with free technical resources to prepare for implementation of the Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA). The PRIME Support and Alignment Network, in turn, gives us a seat at the table as CMS not only considers the implementation of MACRA, but considers which quality measures are best for primary care. With this seat we have a bigger voice, and with the PRIME Registry we have the technology to liberate your clinical data from your electronic health record. Once liberated, these data can be used to demonstrate the efficacy of any given quality measure, to propose new ones, and to help track and monitor your clinical care down to the individual patient level.

This year we helped accelerate onboarding into the PRIME Registry, Family Medicine's only specialty registry. Currently 519 practices have signed up, and 244 clinicians are viewing the clinical quality measures in their dashboards and are preparing to move into "maintenance phase," where they will regularly receive their quality measure data.

What Can the PRIME Registry Do for You (and Why is it Called PRIME)?

The PRIME Registry is a population health and performance improvement tool for primary care practices. It extracts patient data from your electronic health record (EHR) and turns it into actionable measures to:

- View and track the quality of patient care
- Automate measure submission for your ABFM Certification/Performance Improvement activities (formerly MC-FP/Part IV credit)
- Automate measure submission for federal quality improvement reporting for the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs)
- Qualify for the EHR Incentive program (aka Meaningful Use)

The PRIME Registry is designed to help practices move through the phases of transformation and prepare to succeed in a value-based reimbursement environment. It is called PRIME because it is designed to support all primary care clinicians and is likely to become the largest clinical registry. Our PRIME Registry technology team is currently working with more than 85 EHRs and can support all primary care clinicians.

Clinicians and their teams get excited seeing their EHR data come to life in a way that makes sense and shows, for example, "Wow, we're doing well here with our pneumonia vaccinations for older adults, but we need to work on our use of imaging studies for low back pain."

The PRIME Registry supports the triple aim of Better Care, Smarter Spending, and Healthier People and the quadruple aim of bringing joy back to practice, by streamlining your Family Medicine certification with your quality improvement work required for payment.

Got questions? Contact the PRIME Navigator team at help@primenavigator.org.



EHR Got Ya Down? You're Not Alone ...

“It’s been a nightmare because my EHR (eClinicalWorks) won’t support my involvement in TCPI, nor will it allow me to connect to registries. With eCW, I feel nickel and dimed because every time I have a reporting need. PRIME looks attractive it would allow my practice to demonstrate our quality and compare to our colleagues, but eCW won’t support this connection. I’m afraid [to report them for data blocking] because I’m a small practice and they could put me out of business with retribution.”

“I love my practice and my patients, I love going to work as a doctor. TCPI and practice transformation is important for helping demonstrate the kind of quality we’re providing. We printed out our TCPI practice assessment and posted it on our clinic walls; we established a plan for improvement, but eCW won’t allow us to connect to PRIME to get our measures out for TCPI.”

The PRIME registry is currently working well with more than 40 different EHRs. The EHR company eMDs recently partnered with the PRIME platform vendor, FIGmd, recognizing that PRIME and its sister registries were the most cost-effective solution for practices. Amazing Charts is also steering physicians to PRIME for the Comprehensive Primary Care+ program. Small and rural practices are the largest group of PRIME users currently, which is not a surprise since ABFM aimed to make this a solution for this critical group of Diplomates. As more EHRs partner with the PRIME registry, we anticipate that it will help meet the quality, certification, and reporting needs of many more practices.

Why I’m Choosing to Connect to the PRIME Registry

“We previously had a population health registry supported by insurers but lost it a year ago because it was too expensive. Having seen that, we want that back. We are looking for the PRIME Registry to:

- 1. Be an advanced Population health management tool, especially to “see” the patients who are not coming in;*
- 2. Be a patient level tool to see what each patient needs across multiple measures to improve their health;*
- 3. Support our quality reporting needs.”*



MACRA Note

The new payment program will be called the “Quality Payment Program,” and you will choose one of two pathways—**the PRIME Registry is designed to help you with both:**

#1-Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which combines Quality Reporting, Resource Use measures, Clinical Practice Improvement, and Meaningful Use of certified EHR technology

#2-Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs), e.g., Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+), Next Generation ACO Model, and Medicare Shared Savings Program.

CMS recently announced you will be able to “pick your pace” of participation for the first Quality Payment Program performance period that begins January 1, 2017. See CMS Acting Administrator Andy Slavitt’s announcement here: <https://blog.cms.gov/2016/09/08/QualityPaymentProgram-PickYourPace/>.

Connecting to the PRIME Registry will make Continuing Certification and participation in these Quality Payment Programs easier and more meaningful for you and your patients.



FMX Orlando Expo Hall Rounds

The ABFM PRIME SAN team enjoyed meeting many of you at AAFP FMX last month. While our ABFM PRIME SAN team answered questions and demonstrated the PRIME Registry dashboard, our AAFP PRIME SAN teammates helped deliver three CME sessions built on the Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative “change drivers” for practice transformation success—and to date have awarded 403 CME credits!

Grand opening night in the Expo Hall featured entertainment and great innovations like the Office of the Future. Our own ABFM Board of Directors Member-at-Large, Dr. Montgomery Douglas, serves on the governing board of the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation that created the Primary Care Office of the Future. Dr. Douglas is also Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. For more information, including a virtual tour of the Office of the Future, go to: <http://www.cipci.org/future>.



Dr. Angel Mattos, 97 years old from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, retired Diplomate stopping by the PRIME booth to say hello!





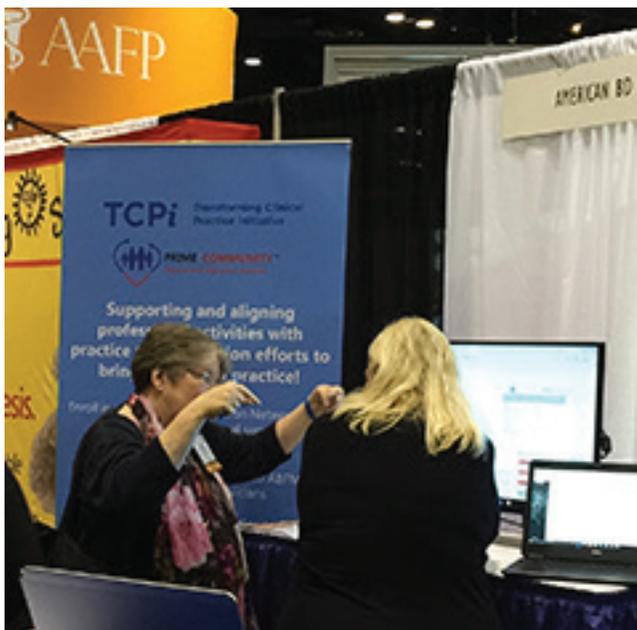
Dr. William Handy, Diplomate from Ennice, North Carolina, stopped by to chat about the PRIME Registry with our PRIME Navigator, Elizabeth Skees.



Dr. Jody Harmsen, a Diplomate from Iowa City, Iowa, stopped by to chat about rural health and share her outstanding ribbons!



Dr. Cheryl Reed of the PINNACLE Health Group and a Diplomate from Tampa, Florida, stopped by to see the PRIME Registry dashboard demonstration and chat with PRIME Registry Manager, Sarah Hajjar.



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