

ABFM Statement on Commitment to Clinician Well-Being

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) has long been committed to improving the quality of care that family physicians provide to patients and their families by establishing and maintaining standards of excellence in the specialty of Family Medicine. The dramatic increase in physician burnout over the past decade, particularly among family physicians, has threatened the safety and the quality of care that family physicians provide to the public.

To understand this problem more fully and to combat its adverse effects on patient care, the ABFM has begun to assess the prevalence of burnout and its potential causes among board certified family physicians as well as family physicians in training. The ABFM is committed to publishing these data and also sharing them with family medicine residency training programs, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and AAFP constituent state chapters. Doing so will allow us to work collaboratively with these organizations to develop tools that can help identify physicians at risk as well as create solutions for alleviating the root causes of the problem.

We further commit to thoughtful, ongoing innovation in an effort to evolve the assessment tools that we utilize for continuously certifying family physicians. Integrating these activities into the daily practice of family medicine, designing them to facilitate the delivery of high quality care, and creating them to meet other regulatory requirements will improve efficiency, reduce redundancy and increase the ability of family physicians to practice in an environment that is more conducive to physician well-being.