



# ADC 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

APRIL 19-21, 2024 | HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY, PA



## American Board of Dermatology (ABD) Update

Allison T. Vidimos RPh, MD

Mohs Surgeon

Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Professor of Dermatology, Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University

I have no relevant disclosures



# American Board of Dermatology

## MISSION

To serve the public and distinguish the profession by certifying that diplomates have the knowledge and skills to provide high-quality, safe, and effective dermatologic care.

## VISION

Advance excellence in dermatologic care and improve outcomes for all patients.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Cultivate and strengthen our partnership with diplomates and trainees.
- Support diplomates' ability to compassionately and effectively evaluate and manage patients of all backgrounds.
- Distinguish the value of ABD Certification.
- Enhance governance processes and effectiveness.



# Role of Board of Directors

“Working” Board

*16 Directors + 1 Public Member + 1 Young Diplomate + 2 directors-elect*

Directors serve for 9 years (three 3-year terms)

Volunteer board

## **Responsibilities**

Hire an Executive Director

Exam Development – Question writing & vetting, test assembly, test validation

Develop and oversee Continuing Certification Program (CCP) for 15,000+ diplomates

Credential Review and Actions



# ABD Board of Directors

President: Carl V. Washington, MD (July 2023-June 2024)

Vice President: Moise L. Levy, MD (President January-June 2023)

David M. Allen, MD  
Christopher K. Bichakjian, MD  
Jerry D. Brewer, MD  
Anna L. Bruckner, MD  
Jason Castillo, MD  
(Observer Member)  
Keith A. Choate, MD  
Karynne O. Duncan, MD  
Tammie Ferringer, MD  
Mercedes E. Gonzalez, MD  
Warren R. Heymann, MD

Ryan W. Hick, MD  
Christine Ko, MD  
Delphine J. Lee, MD  
Mary G. Mercurio, MD  
Kanade Shinkai, MD  
Allison T. Vidimos, MD  
Andrea L. Zaenglein, MD  
Aileen Shinaman, JD  
(Public Member starting July 2023)  
Bruce Bartels, MBA  
(Public Member 2014-June 2023)

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

Executive Director: Randall K. Roenigk, MD  
Associate Executive Director: Stanley Miller, MD  
Associate Executive Director: Marta J. Petersen, MD  
Associate Executive Director: Julie V. Schaffer, MD  
Associate Executive Director: Erik J. Stratman, MD  
Managing Director: Elysia M. McGowan





# Work of the ABD

## Oversee

### **150 training programs**

(register residents, evaluations, BASIC exam, policies)

*and*

### **1,750 residents**

(CORE and APPLIED exams)

*and*

### **15,304 active diplomates**

(CCP/CertLink, MDS exam, Peds Cert)



# ABD Work Has Grown

## **1987: 3 exams**

ITE Exam  
Certifying Exam  
DermPath (ABPath)

## **2005: 5 exams**

ITE Exam  
Certifying Exam  
MOC Exam  
DermPath & Peds Derm

## **2022: 10 exams**

BASIC Exam  
4 CORE Exams – 3 admins/year  
APPLIED Exam  
DermPath, Peds Derm and MDS  
CertLink Questions  
(replacing MOC exam)



# Minding the GAP

## Certlink Content Advisory Groups

- ABD reached out to national subspecialty organizations in 2023 dermatopathology, medical dermatology, pediatric dermatology, surgical dermatology, cosmetic dermatology, skin of color/gender identity issues to nominate experts to join our newly formed CertLink Content Advisory Groups (CCAGs)
- CCAGs will review specialty and subspecialty literature and identify the most important and relevant articles within their subspecialty in the last year
- CCAG members will write article- based questions
- ABD has made all articles used for Certlink article- based questions available through Certlink Library
- More than 220 articles are currently available under RESOURCES in diplomates' Certlink platform
- 12 CME credits for article based questions/year



# Minding the Gap

## Gap Analysis of Practice Improvement Needs

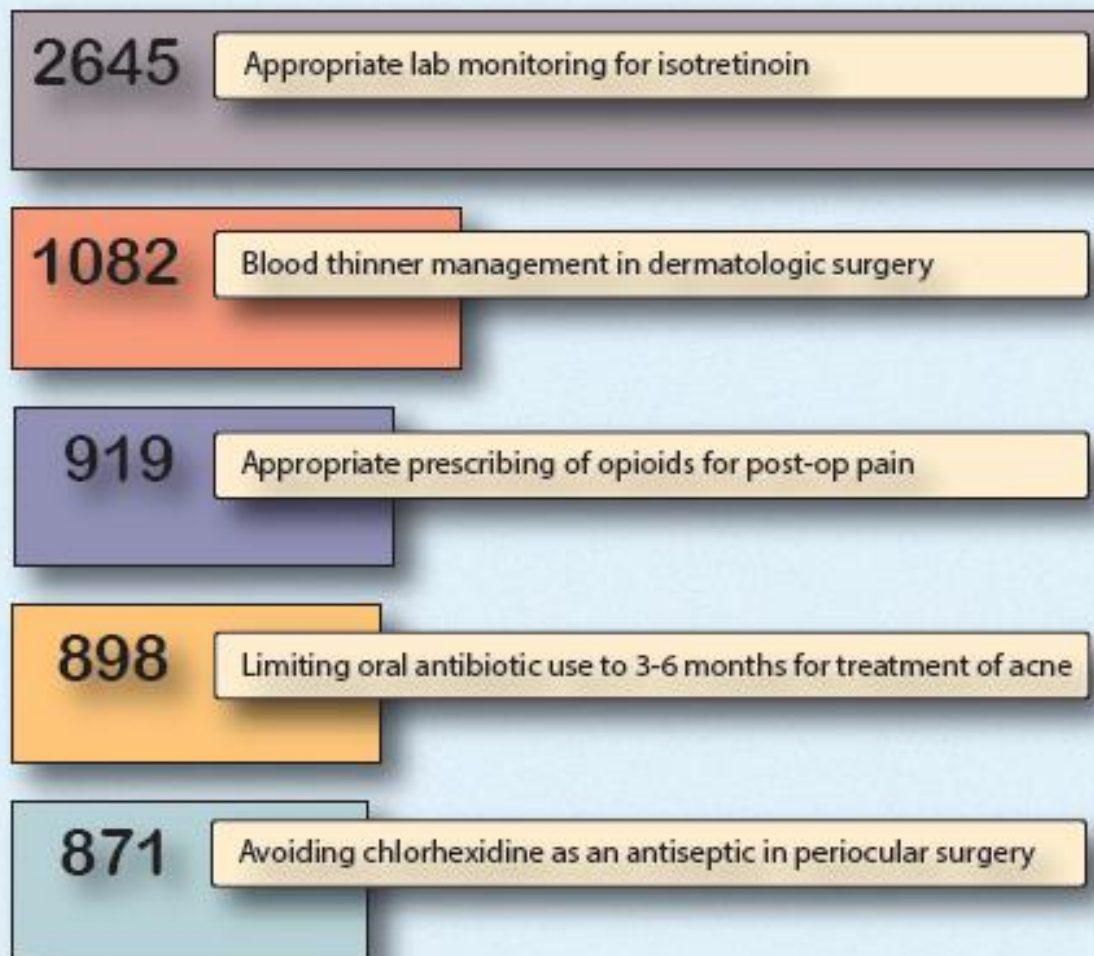
- In 2023 ABD asked dermatology professional organizations to help identify gaps in competency and/or performance in our specialty
- Identified areas where additional focused professional improvement (fPI) modules were needed to help diplomates stay on the cutting edge of dermatologic care
- Volunteers wrote 17 new fPI modules in derm surgery, dermatopathology, cosmetic dermatology
- A few modules that are no longer relevant to current practice were retired, bringing total number of fPI modules to 78
- Diplomates are asked to complete 1 fPI module every 5 years





# Practice Improvement Modules

## Most Popular fPIs (# completed since 2016)



# NEW Opioid Practice Improvement Modules

- Meets mandatory DEA registration renewal requirements of 8 CME credit hours
- Modules ( each module can earn up to 20 CME credits)
  - Appropriate prescribing of opioids for post –operative pain in dermatology
  - Increasing safety of patients in your practice who may have opioid use disorder
  - Using prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data and other screening to inform your opioid prescribing
  - Utilizing an Opioid Patient-Prescriber Agreement (PPA) when prescribing long term opioids
- Included at no additional charge to ABD board-certified dermatologists participating in Continuing Certification Program (CCP)



# Exam Item Writing Initiative

## Pediatric Dermatologists Volunteer for Pilot

- In Sept 2023, ABD invited all certified pediatric dermatologists to participate in a pilot initiative aimed at strengthening our partnership and engagement with diplomates through participation in question writing
- 27 pediatric dermatologists volunteered to join the existing Item Writing Committee
- Volunteers received training in item writing and submitted 5 questions which will be reviewed and edited in a virtual group review and editing session in 2024
- The exam development committee will assemble the exam to be administered in Oct 2024





# Dr. Heinecke named ABD's First Visiting Scholar

Gillian Heinecke, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, SSM Health/Saint Louis University, has been named the American Board of Dermatology's first ABMS Visiting Scholar. Dr. Gillian is one of 13 scholars selected to participate in the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Visiting Scholars Program. She is certified in Dermatology and in Dermatopathology and is participating in the ABD's Continuing Certification Program (CCP).

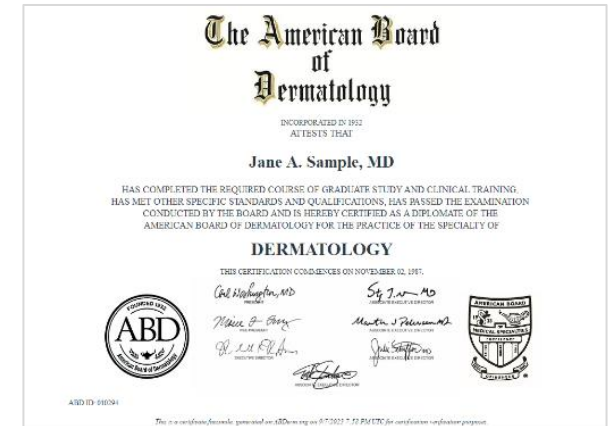


Established in 2014, the one-year, part-time [Visiting Scholars Program](#) supports early-career physicians and researchers in scholarship and leadership development, focusing on initial and continuing board certification. Each Visiting Scholar receives a \$15,000 financial award.

Dr. Heinecke will explore the value of the BASIC Exam (which is administered at the end of the first year of dermatology training) to predict residents' future performance on CORE Exam modules and the APPLIED Exam. Also, she will assess current attitudes toward the Basic Exam performance and whether training programs are initiating interventions at minimum Basic Exam score thresholds.

# What else is the ABD doing for you?

- Discounted Royal Society of Medicine membership
- → Access to 100's of journals
- “Is My Dermatologist Certified?” search tool.
- Download your certificate and Cert Mark.





# Find A Dermatologist Near Me

## ABDerm.org 'Find A Dermatologist Near Me' Coming Soon. *Build Your Public Profile NOW!*

The ABD will soon launch a new tool for patients seeking dermatologic care. With the 'Find a Dermatologist Near Me' feature, patients can search for dermatologists in their area. In preparation for unveiling this new tool, we encourage all diplomates to assemble a public profile with their office location details and areas of interest/expertise.

Go to [Abdorm.org](http://Abdorm.org), enter your credentials and select '**ABD Public Profile Details**' from the blue 'My Account' menu. The link to the profile is also available in the middle of the page, within the promotional text.

Founding Member of the American Board of Medical Specialties

The ABD is launching a new "Find a Dermatologist Near Me" tool for patients. We created a new ABD Public Profile where diplomates can add their office address, website, a photograph, and areas of interest/expertise. Populate your [ABD Public Profile](#) now to ensure patients seeking care in your area will find you.

My Profile

Sample, Jane ( )

- My CCP Status: **Up-to-date**
- 25 Unread Messages
- My Cert Mark
- My Certificate

My CCP  
Continuing Certification Program

CertLink

My Account

- ABD Public Profile Details**
- Pearson VUE
- General
- Addresses
- Medical Licenses
- Certificate Information
- Change Password



# Your ABD Public Profile

## Public Profile Elements

### Office Address

Diplomates can have up to **three public addresses** and **one mailing address**.

Only public addresses will be used in the new search tool. A mailing address can be your home or business; it *will not* be used in the new search tool.

Review the addresses the ABD has on file, and then use the 'Edit Addresses' link to update old addresses or add a new address.

Be sure to include a *website* in your public address.

#### ABD Public Profile Details

Complete the information below to add your ABD profile, referenced by patients using the ABD's [Dermatologist Search](#) tool.

#### Office Location (Required if you wish to appear in location-based searches)

Enter details about your practice location to help patients find you. Practice address information will be used when patients search for a dermatologist in a certain geographic area and when they view your profile. If you work in multiple offices, use the 'Edit Addresses' link to enter up to 3 locations.

[Edit addresses](#)

Public Address: 123 Main Street

Address Type: Public

Street Address: 123 Main Street

City: Newton

State/Province: Massachusetts

Zip/Postal Code: 2459

Country: United States

Website: <https://www.abderm.org>

### Profile Picture

*Optional*

Diplomates can add a headshot to display in their ABD public profile.

Your new profile will be visible to patients in **Spring 2023**, with the launch of our new tool: 'Find a Dermatologist Near Me'.

### Area of Interest/Specialty

To help patients find targeted care, diplomates can indicate their practice specialty, practice focus and areas of special interest and expertise.

Select your Practice Specialty(ies) and any relevant Practice Focuses from the options below. The definitions provided will display for patients to reference while searching for care and while viewing your profile.

**Practice Specialty** (Required if you wish to appear in detailed searches)

Identify your Practice Specialty or Specialties.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmetic dermatology  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dermatopathology     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General dermatology   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical dermatology  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatric dermatology | <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical dermatology |

**Practice Focus** (Required if you wish to appear in detailed searches)

Select your practice focuses to complement the Practice Specialty(ies) identified above.

- LGBT health
- Mohs Micrographic Surgery
- Skin of color
- Teledermatology

**Special Clinical Interests/Expertise** (Optional)

Highlight your special interests with a short list in the box below. This will display to patients when viewing your profile.

Limit: 500 characters



# Contact Us

## **American Board of Dermatology**

2 Wells Avenue

Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Office Hours: Mon-Fri,  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

(617) 910-6400 (Phone/Fax)

[Communications@ABDerm.org](mailto:Communications@ABDerm.org)



# THANK YOU!

Allison T. Vidimos RPh, MD FAAD FACMS

Cleveland Clinic

Vidimoa@ccf.org



# Certification Pathway: 2019 – Present

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	POST-GRADUATION
<b>BASIC EXAM</b> April	<b>CORE EXAM</b> February <i>1-2 modules may be taken</i>	<b>CORE EXAM</b> July, November & February <i>1-4 modules may be taken</i>	<b>APPLIED EXAM</b> July

**BASIC EXAM**

- Evaluates fundamental knowledge and skills
- Designed specifically for first-year residents
- Informational only, not pass/fail
- Four-hour exam
- Offered on one day in April
- Proctored by programs

**CORE EXAM**

- Part 1 of the Certification Exam process
- Tests more advanced knowledge appropriate for senior residents
- Four modules: medical, pediatric, surgical, and dermatopathology
- Modules are pass/fail
- Candidates must pass all four modules to go on to take the APPLIED Exam
- Each module is a stand-alone exam of about two hours
- Offered in late winter of 2nd year: 1-2 modules may be taken
- Offer three times during the 3rd year: 1-4 modules may be taken at each sitting
- Residents choose which module(s) to take at each sitting
- May take after graduation if not completed prior to graduation
- Taken via Pearson VUE online proctor or at a Test Center

**APPLIED EXAM**

- Part 2 of the Certification Exam process
- Tests application of knowledge in clinically relevant scenarios
- Must successfully complete residency and CORE modules to qualify
- Full day exam
- Offered yearly in July
- Taken at Pearson VUE test centers

**BASIC Exam:** Formative  
**CORE and APPLIED Exams:** Summative





# Dermatology Subspecialty Certification

**1979:** Dermatopathology

Administered by ABPath and co-sponsored by ABD (we assist in development)

**2004:** Pediatric Dermatology

**2021:** Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS)



# MDS Exam

- **2021:** 1749 candidates (95% pass rate)
- **2022:** 460 candidates (90% pass rate)
- **2023:** 434 candidates registered (89% pass rate)
  
- Practice Pathway eligibility ends in 2025





**Continuing  
Certification:  
Together  
Forever...**

# Certification Lifetime vs Time-Limited

Before 1991, everyone who passed the Certification exam was certified for life (“Life-Time Certificate”)

In 1991, certificates became “time-limited” requiring participation in maintenance of certification (MOC), now termed Continuing Certification Program (CCP)



# 4 Components of CCP

**Part 1:** *Evidence of Professional Standing*

Active and unrestricted license to practice medicine

**Part 2:** *Evidence to Lifelong Learning and Periodic Self-Assessment*

CME (25 hrs/year)

Self-assessment exercises

**Part 3:** *Evidence of Cognitive Expertise*

MOC exam – retired in 2022, replaced by CertLink

**Part 4:** *Demonstrate Improvement in Medical Practice*

Practice assessment / quality improvement projects





# ABDerm.org

The screenshot displays the ABDerm.org website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, Contact Us, FAQs, and Administration, alongside a search bar. Below this is the main header featuring the American Board of Dermatology logo and navigation icons for Diplomates, Residents & Fellows, Public, Program Directors, and Test Committees & ABD Directors. A prominent orange banner encourages users to try the new Dermatologist Search tool. The main content area features a large image of a smiling woman, identified as a Founding Member of the American Board of Medical Specialties. A user profile dropdown menu is open on the right, showing the user's name (Sample, Jane), CCP status (Up-to-date), unread messages (11), and options for My Cert Mark, My Certificate, My CCP, and My Account. A Certlink logo is also visible. At the bottom, there is a text block about the new "Find a Dermatologist Near Me" tool and navigation links for Perspectives and Announcements.

Home | About Us | Contact Us | FAQs | Administration

Search

AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY

DIPLOMATES RESIDENTS & FELLOWS PUBLIC PROGRAM DIRECTORS TEST COMMITTEES & ABD DIRECTORS

Try out the new Dermatologist Search tool to see if your dermatologist is board certified.

Founding Member of the American Board of Medical Specialties

My Profile

Sample, Jane (010294)

My CCP Status: Up-to-date

11 Unread Messages

My Cert Mark

My Certificate

My CCP  
Continuing Certification Program

Certlink

My Account

The ABD is launching a new "Find a Dermatologist Near Me" tool for patients. We created a new ABD Public Profile where diplomates can add their office address, website, a photograph, and areas of interest/expertise. Populate your [ABD Public Profile](#) now to ensure patients seeking care in your area will find you.

Perspectives Announcements



# CCP Table

**MY CCP TABLE**

Upcoming Overdue Complete

Requirements	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Annual CCP Fee	✓	✓	✓	Pay	Pay	Pay	Pay	Pay	Pay	Pay
License Attestation	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	○	○
CME Attestation	W	55.25	54.25	9	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs
Periodic Self-Assessment	267		62		0					
Practice Improvement	Enter					Enter				
CertLink Status	Enrolled - The current CertLink segment concludes September 30, 2023									
MOC Exam	Not required with active, ongoing participation in CertLink									

**MANAGE FEES**

**SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS (CCP ANNUAL FEE)**      **NAVIGATE TO CERTLINK**

The ABD reserves the right to audit the activity documented on CCP Tables.



# CertLink



Longitudinal assessment program - replaces the every 10-year MOC exam

ABD started participation in 2020

All new diplomates automatically enrolled in *CertLink*

All new subspecialists also enrolled

By 2026, all diplomates will be participating in *CertLink* (except for those with life-time certificates)



# CertLink

## **Relevant**

Diplomates can personalize by selecting modules that reflect their practice

## **Prioritize learning**

Real-time feedback after missed questions to fill knowledge gaps

## **Keep diplomates up to date**

Core questions are selected that have new pertinent information

Article-based questions are from cutting edge articles; or expert-approved reviews or expert determined guidelines

## **Save time and money**

Covered with annual MOC fee

No need for expensive review courses

No need for Pearson Vue monitoring centers

Can be done in small increments of time over the year



# CertLink

**13 Questions each quarter = 52 questions each year**

## **Questions**

**Core:** visual recognition

**Concentration:** Med/Peds/Surg/Cosmetics/Path

**Article:** based on articles selected by diplomate (from a list)

## **Individually designed**

Meets requirements for dermatology and any/all subspecialty(ies) of dermatology at the same time





# Core Questions

## Visual recognition

“What is the most likely diagnosis?”

46% of entire assessment

6 Core questions per quarter – total of 24 per year

**Goal:** At least 25% will depict skin of color or related to gender identity/sexual orientation



# Concentration Questions

5 Subspecialty modules – Med/Peds/Surg/Cosmetics/Path

3 questions quarterly – total of 12 questions

Includes new and relevant information in subspecialty  
Balance between important current, recent, relevant  
and practice changing information



# Article-Based Questions

Identifies knowledge/practice gaps and helps solve them

Highlights new information that may change practice:

- New and relevant RCTs

- Meta-analyses

- Large cohort studies

- Reviews and guidelines

2 articles per quarter x 2 questions per article

16 article-based questions per year



# CertLink Details: Quarterly Question Delivery

## **General / Medical Dermatologists receive:**

6 Core questions (images)

3 Concentration questions in subspecialty chosen at the beginning of the year:

Medical | Pediatric | Surgical | DP / | Cosmetic

4 Article based questions (2 articles)

“Repeats/redos”

## **Subspecialty Board Certified Dermatologists receive:**

3 Core questions

6 Concentration questions (Elective) – Level 2

4 Article based questions (2 articles)

“Repeats/redos”



# *CertLink* Summary

## **13 questions every quarter / 52 per year**

Only 3 of 4 quarters required for scoring – only 39 questions scored yearly

If participate in all 4 quarters, the lowest performing quarter is dropped from scoring

## **Second chance....**

All incorrectly answered or forfeited questions are resent in the next quarter

These are in addition to 13 new questions

Answering a question correctly second time negates scoring item as incorrect

## **Opt-Out**

You can opt-out of one quarter each year





# *CertLink* Bonus Points

## **1 Self-Assessment credit for each core /concentration question answered**

Regardless of correct or incorrect

But only original question counts

52 SA credits per year (this satisfies the SA component of CCP)

## **1 CME credit for each article-based question answered in the 3 scored quarters**

Regardless of correct or incorrect

12 CME credits per year



# People LIKE *CertLink*!

## **Survey Results – greater than 80% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed:**

- CertLink questions were useful learning tools.
- CertLink helped them identify knowledge gaps.
- CertLink helps provide better care to patients.
- CertLink helps them stay current in their specialty.
- CertLink questions were relevant to their practice.

**Plus, you now get access to ALL the *CertLink* articles free of charge.**



# Practice Improvement

- One PI activity every 5 years
- Over 78 focused PI modules to choose from, new ones being developed yearly
- DEA module



# Focused Practice Improvement (fPI) Modules

## TOP 10 ABD fPI MODULES

Appropriate lab monitoring for isotretinoin	2645
Blood Thinner Management in Dermatologic Surgery	1082
Appropriate prescribing of opioids for post-operative pain	919
Limiting oral antibiotic use to 3-6 months for treatment of acne	898
Avoiding chlorhexidine as an antiseptic in periocular surgery	871
Contraceptive education prior to starting isotretinoin	824
Reducing Potassium Monitoring in Healthy Young Women on Spironolactone	785
Use of nonsterile gloves in outpatient cutaneous procedures	724
Skin Biopsy Pathway - Process Step 02	625
Appropriate timing of ophthalmologic screening for retinopathy in long-term hydroxychloroquine users	613

## ABD FOCUSED PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT OUTCOMES

### fPI FEEDBACK

This activity was RELEVANT to my practice.	98%
How I MANAGE this patient population has changed as a result of this project.	17%
How I DOCUMENT the care of this patient population has changed as a result of this project.	19%
My CARE IMPROVED for this patient population as a result of this activity.	28%
A patient experienced an IMPROVED OUTCOME as a result of this project.	33%
I would RECOMMEND this project to a peer.	97%

