



## **SAM Study Group FAQs**

### **Q: What is the format of the IAFP's SAM Study Groups?**

A: Attendees take part in interactive discussions facilitated by a trained faculty member with in-depth knowledge of each SAM topic. We discuss each of the 60 Knowledge Assessment questions as a group, decide on the correct answer to each question, and review reference slides showing pertinent information from the medical literature sources used in each question. Our answers are submitted to the ABFM using an online system, and we have the opportunity to review and reevaluate any incorrect answers as a group.

### **Q: What type of CME credit is offered at the SAM Study Groups?**

A: You will earn 12 AAFP Prescribed CME Credits when you complete the Clinical Simulation portion of the SAM. CME credit is NOT awarded for your time at the IAFP's SAM Study Group, and is therefore NOT classed as Live CME Credit. What our SAM Study Groups aim to do is to assist you in completing the Knowledge Assessment portion of each SAM, and you will then apply what you learned when you successfully complete the Clinical Simulation.

### **Q: Where does a SAM Study Group fit in with the rest of the MC-FP Process?**

A: There are four components to the MC-FP Process:

#### ***Part I – Professionalism***

Fulfillment of this component requires a currently valid, full, and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States or Canada

#### ***Part II – Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning***

Fulfillment of this component requires completion of the required number of Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) during the MC-FP cycle and completion of the required credits of Continuing Medical Education (CME)

#### ***Part III – Cognitive Expertise***

Fulfillment of this component requires the successful completion of the recertification examination at the end of the MC-FP cycle

#### ***Part IV – Performance in Practice***

Fulfillment of this component requires completion of the required number of Performance in Practice Modules (PPMs) during the MC-FP cycle

Each Part II module consists of two parts and it is the first part, the Knowledge Assessment, that you will complete at the IAFP's SAM Study Group:

- Knowledge Assessment—an assessment of the Diplomate's knowledge in a particular domain. Each domain consists of core competencies that the Diplomate must master. In order to successfully complete the assessment, eighty percent (80%) of the questions in each competency must be answered correctly. If the Diplomate is not successful initially, he/she moves to a review mode, in which a critique and reference for each incorrectly answered question can be reviewed before inputting new answers to the missed questions. When the Knowledge Assessment is successfully completed, the Diplomate progresses to the computer-based Clinical Simulation.
- Clinical Simulation—presents patient care scenarios corresponding to the topic chosen in the Knowledge Assessment. Simulated patients evolve in response to therapeutic

interventions, investigations, and the passage of time, providing an opportunity for Diplomates to demonstrate proficiency in patient management skills.

**Q: Couldn't I just complete the Knowledge Assessment portion of the SAM at home on my own?**

A: Yes, you could. What our SAM Study Groups aim to do, and what our members have told us they benefit from in our SAM Study Groups, is to provide you with an opportunity to enhance your learning experience as you complete each SAM. This is achieved through interaction and discussion with your family physician colleagues, as well as the benefit of an experienced faculty member who can guide you through each topic. We also submit your answers to the ABFM for you, using our online system, which is a plus for the technologically challenged!

**Q: Will I complete the Clinical Simulation portion of the SAM at the IAFP's SAM Study Group?**

A: No, you will complete the Clinical Simulation portion on your own, utilizing the knowledge you obtain at the IAFP SAM Study Group.

**Q: Do I need to pay the ABFM as well as the IAFP?**

A: Yes. Our nominal SAM Study Group fee covers our meeting space, faculty honoraria, and food and beverage costs. The ABFM have several payment options as you move through the MC-FP process, and your Academy does not have access to your ABFM account or current payment status. We advise our members to call the ABFM Support Center at 877-223-7437 for answers to their questions about their account status.

**Q: Why are your SAM Study Groups frequently "sold out"? Why not make them available to as many IAFP members as possible?**

A: Our SAM Study Groups are limited to 40 participants because our goal is to foster interactive discussion among the family physicians who are present. This becomes impossible with more than 40 participants. If you are unable to register for a SAM Study Group because it is full, please check your e-FrontLine email newsletter, FrontLine Physician member magazine, or the IAFP website for future sessions. If there is a large demand for a particular topic, we often repeat it at future meetings.

**Q: I just received a notice in the mail about an upcoming SAM Study Group, but when I tried to register for it, I was told it was full. Why?**

A: Your Academy has found that our SAM Study Groups fill up extremely fast. In fact, we have had instances where these sessions sell out after *one single email* to our members. It is vitally important that we have your current email address on file, so we can let you know about our upcoming offerings. Please send your preferred email address to [iafp@in-afp.org](mailto:iafp@in-afp.org) and we will update our list. Check [www.in-afp.org](http://www.in-afp.org) regularly for news about upcoming meetings. Please understand that while we do send out information about each meeting via regular mail, our email notices reach our members much quicker than our USPS mailings.