High Quality Self-Assessment Tools For Medical Students and Graduates

NBME Self-Assessment Services
Overview

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME®) offers web-based self-assessments to US and International medical students and graduates. The material presented in these self-assessments is provided by the NBME for educational purposes only.

KEY FEATURES

Key features of NBME Self-Assessment Services (NSAS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flexibility</th>
<th>System Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week</td>
<td>• Microsoft® Internet Explorer is the recommended browser (7.0 and higher), but Firefox 1.5 and higher and Safari 5.0 and higher; all later versions are also supported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Can be taken in more than one sitting (you have 20 days to complete a self-assessment once you start it)</td>
<td>• Color monitor capable of displaying 1024 x 768 with 32 bit color. For best results, use a 17” or larger monitor with 1024 x 768 resolution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Available in two pacing options</td>
<td>• Computer must accept cookies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pop-up window software must be disabled.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Verify hardware and software configuration by accessing the sample items on the NSAS website.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Variety

• Multiple forms are offered for each self-assessment.

PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICY

The NBME recognizes that your privacy is important and takes extensive measures to ensure the safety and security of its website. The NBME does not collect any personal information from users browsing its website. For detailed information, please review our privacy policy online at https://nsas.nbme.org/home.

OWNERSHIP AND COPYRIGHT

The materials presented on NSAS are owned and copyrighted by the NBME. Any unauthorized reproduction of these materials, by any means, including but not limited to, storage in a retrieval system, transmission, printing, memorization or distribution is strictly prohibited.

TERMS, CONDITIONS AND DISCLAIMERS

Participants must read and agree to the NBME’s Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers before proceeding with a self-assessment. The terms and conditions will appear automatically on the screen before the assessment is started. See page 9 for full disclaimer.
NBME Self-Assessment Services

COMPREHENSIVE SELF-ASSESSMENTS

Built to the same content specifications as United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) Step 1, Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK), and Step 3, the comprehensive self-assessments may be valuable tools for anyone preparing to take the USMLE.

**Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA)**
CBSSA uses multiple-choice items based on information typically covered during basic science medical education courses. The content of the CBSSA resembles that of USMLE Step 1.

**Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessment (CCSSA)**
CCSSA uses multiple-choice items based on information typically covered during the core clinical clerkships. The content of the CCSSA resembles that of USMLE Step 2 CK).

**Comprehensive Clinical Medicine Self-Assessment (CCMSA)**
CCMSA uses items that are based on information typically covered in clinical encounters and reflects the content of the multiple-choice component of USMLE Step 3.

**Research Findings**
NBME research demonstrates that under certain circumstances there is a moderate relationship between performance on the CBSSA and CCSSA and USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK, respectively.

Since the content of the CBSSA, CCSSA, and CCMSA reflects the format and content of USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK, and the multiple-choice component of Step 3, respectively, students may find the self-assessments valuable as they prepare to take the USMLE.

CLINICAL SCIENCE MASTERY SERIES

The Clinical Science Mastery Series is built to the same content specifications as the NBME clinical science subject examinations. This web-based series provides self-assessments for US and international medical students who want to assess their knowledge of the clinical sciences covered during a clerkship or medical education course. Self-assessments are available for the following disciplines:

- Clinical Neurology
- Medicine
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

The NBME will expand this series in the future to include other assessments, such as Ambulatory Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF MEDICINE® (IFOM®) CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION (CSE) SELF-ASSESSMENT

The NBME expanded NSAS to include the new International Foundations of Medicine® (IFOM®) Clinical Science Examination (CSE) Self-Assessment. Built to the same content specifications as the IFOM CSE, this web-based examination provides a self-assessment tool for international medical students who want to assess their knowledge of the clinical sciences in advance of taking the IFOM CSE.
STANDARD PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

Participants receive immediate feedback in the form of performance profiles which indicate the relative strengths and weaknesses in general topic areas. For CBSSA and CCSSA, participants receive a performance profile and a score interpretation guide immediately after completing a self-assessment. These profiles are similar to those that candidates receive for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK. The score interpretation guide allows participants to “translate” an assessment score to an approximate corresponding USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK total score. For CCMSA, participants receive a performance profile only. The performance profile provides an assessment score and graphically displays relative strengths and weaknesses in general topic areas.

The NBME does not guarantee that any individual performance on NSAS will predict performance on USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 3 and cautions participants against making any predictive inferences.

EXPANDED FEEDBACK

Participants have the option to receive expanded feedback in addition to the performance profile for CBSSA, CCSSA, and CCMSA. Expanded feedback includes the following:

- Number of items answered incorrectly by category
- Average time spent on each incorrect item
- Percentage of items answered incorrectly
- Ability to review the text of incorrectly answered items

NOTE: For the self-assessments associated with the Clinical Science Mastery Series and IFOM CSE, participants receive a performance report with expanded feedback and a score interpretation guide.

LONGITUDINAL PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

Participants receive longitudinal performance profiles that display results of the six most recent assessments they have completed. This allows participants to track their progress over time and view a graphical display of their progress in each content category. Longitudinal feedback is not provided for the IFOM CSE self-assessment at this time.

SAMPLE REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sample score reports and the resources listed below are available online at https://nsas.nbme.org/home:

- Fees, payment options, and policies
- Frequently asked questions
- Sample self-assessment with a tutorial
- System Requirements
NBME web-based self-assessments are available through the NSAS interactive website at: https://nsas.nbme.org/home. A sample comprehensive self-assessment with a small number of items is available on the site. It includes a tutorial on how to use the self-assessment delivery software.

**NOTE:** Sample items are NOT the same as those provided in the sample test materials for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 3.

## ACCESS AND ADMINISTRATION

### Thirty-Day Access Period after Purchase of Any Self-Assessment

After you purchase a self-assessment, you may start it at any time within a 30-day access period. You may take a self-assessment at any other location you choose, using a PC with Internet access.

### Twenty-Day Administration Period after Accessing Any Self-Assessment

Once you start a self-assessment you must complete it within a 20-day administration period. You may pause (exit) and resume the assessment in the section and at the item in which you were working at any time during the 20-day administration period. However, if you exceed 20 days, you will NOT be able to resume the assessment.

### Answering, Skipping and Reviewing Items

During the defined time to complete the items in each section, you will be able to answer the items in any order, skip items, review your responses and change answers.

### Pausing and Resuming an Assessment

Pausing a section allows you to exit the self-assessment and resume it later, returning to the same section and

## FORMATS AND PACINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>CBSSA</th>
<th>CCSSA</th>
<th>CCMSA</th>
<th>CS Mastery Series</th>
<th>IFOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Paced</td>
<td>Four sections; 50 items each. Up to 4 hours, 20 minutes to complete each section.</td>
<td>Four sections; 46 items each. Up to 4 hours, 12 minutes to complete each section.</td>
<td>Five sections; 36 items each. Up to 3 hours to complete each section.</td>
<td>One section; 50 items. Up to 5 hours to complete the section.</td>
<td>Two sections; 40 items each. Up to 4 hours to complete each section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard-Paced</td>
<td>Four sections; 50 items each. Up to 1 hour, 5 minutes to complete each section.</td>
<td>Four sections; 46 items each. Up to 1 hour, 3 minutes to complete each section.</td>
<td>Five sections; 36 items each. Up to 45 minutes to complete each section.</td>
<td>One section; 50 items. Up to 1 hour, 15 minutes to complete the section.</td>
<td>Two sections; 40 items each. Up to 1 hour to complete each section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>Six forms: 200 multiple-choice items each. All forms include expanded feedback.</td>
<td>Four forms: 184 multiple-choice items each. Three forms include expanded feedback.</td>
<td>One form: 180 multiple-choice items. All forms include expanded feedback.</td>
<td>Two forms per clinical science discipline; 50 multiple-choice items each. All forms include expanded feedback.</td>
<td>One form: 80 multiple-choice items. Expanded feedback is included.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** All forms have been equated to allow for differences in difficulty. The higher the number of the form the most recently released to the site.

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item in which you were working, provided the total administration time allotted for your assessment (the 20-day period) has not run out. If you select "Pause" while you are working in a section, the time clock for that section ONLY stops and your browser will close. When you resume the self-assessment, you may continue working for the remainder of the time allotted for each section, as long as the 20-day administration period has not expired.

Completing Each Section of the Self-Assessment

When you complete a section of the assessment, you must select "End" before proceeding to the next section. Once you intentionally end a section, or if time expires for a section, you will not be able to return to that section to review items or change answers.

NOTE: Unanswered questions will be marked as incorrect. Once you have completed a total assessment, you cannot return to review any part of it.

Purchasing Self-Assessment Services

You may purchase any form of a self-assessment with either standard- or self-pacing. The timing mode cannot be changed once an assessment is launched. There is no limit to the number of times you may purchase and take any form of an assessment; you can only take an assessment once during the access and administration period for which you have purchased it. Payment is not refundable or transferable. Fees vary based on the type of assessment and feedback.

Comprehensive Self-Assessment
- $50 US currency for each standard
- $60 US currency for expanded feedback

Clinical Science Mastery Series
- $20 US currency for each

IFOM Clinical Science Self-Assessment
- $35 US currency for each

The NSAS Voucher Program is offered to medical schools, residency programs, and other medical education organizations interested in purchasing self-assessments for their students using vouchers. When a voucher is used to purchase a self-assessment, the performance feedback can be viewed by the institution that paid for the exam using the voucher and by the individual who takes the SA. Click here for more details.
For questions regarding purchasing and taking the assessment and reviewing feedback, go to http://www.nbme.org/students/sas/faq.html.

If you need assistance with a self-assessment please contact us at assessmentservices@nbme.org or dial 215-590-9700, and choose option 2.
Please read these Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers carefully before proceeding. By purchasing any self-assessment materials and/or participating in the self-assessment you attest that you agree to be bound by the Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers below.

The material presented in this self-assessment is provided by the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®) for educational purposes only. The self-assessments are not intended to predict performance on the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) or the NBME subject examinations. Rather, the self-assessments are intended to be used as a tool to determine a participant’s strengths and weaknesses in general topic areas.

Under no circumstances shall the NBME be liable for any damages or costs that may result from your, your school’s, or a third party’s reliance on or use of the information derived from your participation in the self-assessment services.

The materials presented on the self-assessments are owned and copyrighted by the NBME. Participants may not transfer or reproduce self-assessment materials in any way without permission from the NBME. Any unauthorized transfer or reproduction of these materials, by any means, including but not limited to, storage in a retrieval system, transmission, printing, memorization, or distribution is strictly prohibited. If the NBME believes that any participant has engaged in or is engaging in the foregoing behavior, the NBME reserves the right to take any and all further action necessary to protect the integrity of the examination, including but not limited to notifying the participant’s medical school or residency program of the suspected unauthorized disclosure of copyrighted materials and taking legal action. Any actions taken by a medical school or residency program on the basis of such information are completely the responsibility of the medical school or residency program.

If you obtained your self-assessment materials by using a voucher purchased by your medical school, residency program or other organization (“the Institution”), you agree that the Institution has a right to request a copy of your performance profile and that the NBME may send a copy of your performance profile to your Institution upon its request. Alternatively, your Institution may ask you to transmit a copy of your performance profile to the appropriate Institution’s personnel. The NBME gives its permission for such transmission of your performance profile. Except as stated above, the NBME will keep your performance profile confidential and will not transmit it to your school or any other third party without your permission.

The NBME reserves the right to change or modify these Terms, Conditions, and Disclaimers at any time, and you agree to give effect to such changes or modifications upon being posted to the NBME Self-Assessment Services interactive website.

By purchasing any self-assessment materials and/or participating in a self-assessment you acknowledge that you have read, understood and agreed to be bound by these Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers. If you do not wish to be bound by these Terms, Conditions and Disclaimers, you are not authorized to purchase self-assessment materials or participate in the self-assessment.