NBME Self-Assessment Services

High Quality Self-Assessment Tools For Medical Students and Graduates
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>
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<tr>
<th>Flexibility</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Can be taken in more than one sitting (you have 20 days to complete a self-assessment once you start it)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Available in two pacing options</td>
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<tr>
<th>System Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Microsoft® Internet Explorer is the recommended browser (9.0 and higher), but Firefox 5.4 and higher and Safari 7.0 and higher; all later versions are also supported. Mac OS 10.9 or higher.</td>
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<tr>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>• Computer must accept cookies.</td>
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<td>• Pop-up window software must be disabled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Verify hardware and software configuration by accessing the sample items on the NSAS website.</td>
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<td>• Multiple forms are offered for each self-assessment.</td>
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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 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 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. See full disclaimer.

TERMS, CONDITIONS AND DISCLAIMERS

The material presented in this self-assessment is provided by the 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.
COMPREHENSIVE SELF-ASSESSMENTS

Built to the same content specifications as 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.

Because 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. Currently, computerized case simulations are not available.

CLINICAL SCIENCE MASTERY SERIES

The Clinical Science (CS) 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
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Medicine
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF MEDICINE® CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAMINATION 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.
Participants receive immediate feedback in the form of performance profiles that indicate 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.

- An individual performance profile with diagnostic feedback that highlights areas of strength and weakness;
- A score interpretation guide with a conversion table that translates an assessment score to an approximated total score on the USMLE score scale; *
- The ability to review the correct answer for all items; and,
- Longitudinal feedback provided when multiple assessments are completed

* Not available for CCMSA.

Performance Feedback Reports

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 Clinical Science Mastery Series or 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 personal computer 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...
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.

NOTE: When ordering a self-assessment, you will notice that the forms are listed in descending order number (e.g., 17, 16, 15 and 14). The larger the form number is the most newly released.

Comprehensive Self-Assessment
- $60 US currency for each

Clinical Science Mastery Series
- $20 US currency for each

IFOM Clinical Science Examination 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 self-assessment. 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 1.