



JULY 8, 2020 | AN UPDATE TO NBME MEMBERSHIP

Support for the Medical Education System through Disruption and Beyond

The past few months have been extraordinarily difficult for everyone in the medical education system. These circumstances, however, have prompted NBME to rapidly address the disruption in assessment resulting from social distancing due to COVID-19. We have remained steadfast in our resolve to serve during this pandemic by:

- Facing new challenges;
- Collaborating with students, educators, administrators, and clinicians;
- Participating in and initiating meaningful exchanges; and
- Offering open minds and fast-tracked solutions.

While we are focused on solutions to increase testing capacity, we are equally committed to fulfill and deliver on other critical aspects of our mission, which you can read about below as well as in [Collaboration, our annual report](#), and the [Committee and Task Force Directory](#).

Web-Conferencing with Remote Proctoring for NBME® Assessments

- This solution enables both students and faculty to continue medical education while adhering to social distancing guidelines. It offers the ability to deliver NBME® Assessments remotely, through readily available technology. NBME modified the delivery technology to allow schools and institutions to monitor examinees via commercial video conferencing.
- Examples of products available through this option include a large selection of NBME® Subject Examinations, Customized Assessments, and the International Foundations of Medicine®.

Efforts to Expand USMLE® Testing

- Since testing was first disrupted, NBME and the Federation of State Medical Boards, co-sponsors of the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®), have strived to provide students with straightforward, up-to-date information. Our communications include [USMLE weekly updates](#), a new [COVID-19 resource portal](#), [FAQs](#) directly addressing student questions, engaging [podcasts and webinars](#), social media posts, [NBME.org news](#), and targeted emails to the more than 35,000 students registered for USMLE in May and June alone.
- Expanding our testing efforts has remained critical during this pandemic. NBME has worked with medical schools to serve as regional testing centers. NBME is also implementing test delivery through event testing at medical schools in July, August, and September. The exploration of longer-term remote proctoring continues.



Free NBME® Self-Assessments available April 2020 through September 2020

- This offering addresses examinees' concerns of not having enough study materials to enrich their knowledge and prepare for exams while social distancing.
- Through MyNBME.org, seven free forms are available to students. Additional support tools include FAQs as well as performance interpretation guides.

Answer Explanations Added to NBME Self-Assessments

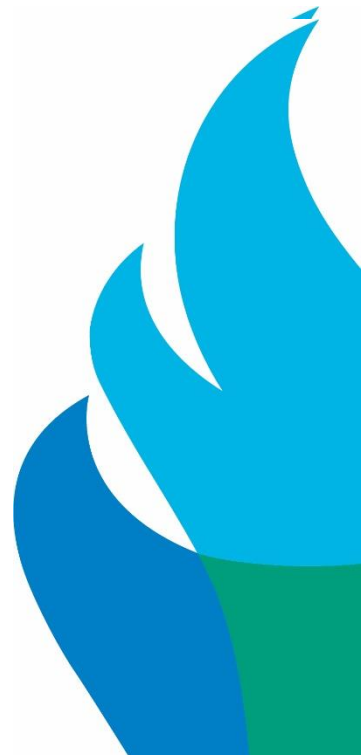
- Students have asked us to provide explanations of correct and incorrect answers on NBME Self-Assessments. Since April 2, 2020, self-assessments have included these explanations on Medicine exam forms five and six of the Clinical Mastery Series. This summer, six more forms containing answer explanations will be released.
- “Explanations for the right and wrong answers can help students maximize valuable study time,” NBME Product Manager Jennifer Wise, PharmD, said. “Students can more easily learn from mistakes and reinforce what they already understand.”
- The longer-term goal is to add answer explanations to all self-assessments.

Unlocking Assessment: A New Educational Web Series for Students

- To answer medical students' requests for interactive learning experiences about our assessments, NBME will launch a video series this summer to help students better understand test questions.
- In each episode, six medical students interact with NBME staff physicians, Miguel Paniagua, MD, and Thomas Rebecchi, MD, during lively discussions about applying clinical knowledge to reason through test questions. The doctors share skills with viewers on determining the best possible response and shed light on how to apply their knowledge as a medical professional.

Additional Support during COVID-19

- NBME donated supplies, including protective masks and sanitizer, to Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, located in the same neighborhood as NBME.
- NBME hosted several virtual Test Development Committee meetings across various exam programs, and we remain open to considering virtual options for a variety of other NBME-sponsored events.



Call to Action

Together, we can sustain this momentum throughout 2020—to move forward, to collaborate, and to rise as a creative and proactive organization during unpredictable crises. To help NBME more effectively meet the needs of our communities, please consider:

- Connecting with us on NBME social media channels and sharing NBME stories and milestones that would resonate within your respective professional or educational circles. You can follow us on Twitter [@NBMENow](#), like us on Facebook [@NBME.org](#), and connect with us on LinkedIn [@NBME.org](#).
- Guiding stakeholders, students, and educators to meaningful, accurate sources of information that will meet their needs. [NBME.org](#) is a great place to start.
- Engaging with us on the questions, concerns, or feedback you may have regarding how NBME can improve.

We sincerely hope this communication finds you healthy and well.

Thank you for your continued service, especially during these challenging, unprecedented times. If you have any questions about the content within this report, please e-mail **Nicole Fortuna** at nfortuna@nbme.org.

