



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for NBME® Self-Assessments

Updated March 24, 2021

When will updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments (CBSSAs) become available for purchase?

As of March 24, 2021, six updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments, designated by form numbers 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, became available for purchase on [MyNBMESM Examinee Portal](#).

Can I still purchase Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments (CBSSAs) forms 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24?

As of the morning of March 24, 2021, six Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments, designated by form numbers 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, have been removed from MyNBME Examinee Portal; they are no longer available for purchase.

How long will I be able to access Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment forms 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 that I have purchased?

You will have 90 days from the date of purchase to launch and complete the self-assessment. For example, if you purchased one of these forms on March 23, 2021 you will be able to access your assessment until June 21, 2021 to launch and complete the self-assessment.

I already purchased form(s) 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and/or 24. Can I switch to an updated form (i.e. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30)?

Yes, you may change the form yourself once the updated forms are available on MyNBME Examinee Portal if you have not yet started the self-assessment. If you would like to change the form and / or pacing, take the following steps:

- On the *My Exams* page, click on the *Registration ID* associated with the exam
- Click the *Update Your Form or Pacing Here* button
- Select the desired Form and / or Pacing
- Click *Next*. Click *Finish*

If you do not see the option to change the form or pacing for the self-assessment on the Registration screen, you most likely either started your self-assessment or used a voucher provided by your medical school that is form-specific.

Will the updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments (CBSSAs) include answer explanations?

Yes, the Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments released on March 24, 2021 (forms 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30) include [answer explanations](#) for both correct and incorrect answer choices.

Will the cost of the Comprehensive Self-Assessments increase as a result of adding answer explanations?

No, the cost of the self-assessments will not increase at this time. Comprehensive Basic Science, Comprehensive Clinical Science and Comprehensive Clinical Medicine Self-Assessments cost \$60 each, while the Clinical Mastery Series Self-Assessments cost \$20 each.

How do I access the answer explanations?

You can view the [answer explanations](#) immediately after you complete your self-assessment. If you exit the assessment, you can log on to the MyNBME Examinee Portal and view the answer explanations in the interactive score report by clicking View Your Results Interactively. Regardless of whether you choose to review the answer explanations immediately following the self-assessment or later by logging onto the MyNBME Examinee Portal, there are 2 options.

1. **Review All Items** - This will allow you to review the question, option set, your answer selection and answer explanations for each question in the order in which it was seen on the self-assessment.
2. **Review Incorrect Items** - This option will allow you to only review answer explanations for the items that you got wrong.

How long will I be able to view answer explanations after I complete my self-assessment?

You will have access to your interactive score report (where you can view answer explanations after you exit the self-assessment) for 2 years from the purchase date.

Were answer explanations added to Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments forms 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 before they retired?

No, answer explanations were not added to them.

Which Self-Assessments have answer explanations?

Currently, the following NBME Self-Assessments have answer explanations for incorrect and correct answer choices:

- Medicine Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Surgery Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Pediatrics Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Clinical Neurology Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Ob/Gyn Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Psychiatry Self-Assessments (forms 3, 4, and 5)
- Comprehensive Clinical Medicine Self-Assessment
- Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments (forms 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30) **released March 24, 2021**
- Family Medicine Self-Assessments - **coming Spring 2021**
- Emergency Medicine Self-Assessments - **coming Spring 2021**
- Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessments - **coming Summer 2021**

Are the updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments be aligned to the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) [Step 1 Content Distribution changes announced in 2020](#)?

Yes, the updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments released on March 24, 2021 feature new questions on communication skills to align with Step 1 content distribution changes. Beginning in October 2020, Step 1 increased the number of items assessing communication skills.

For more information about the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK content distribution changes, you can visit the USMLE.org website: <https://covid.usmle.org/announcements/step-1-and-step-2-clinical-knowledge-ck-content-distribution-changes>.

Will there be changes to the Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment score reports?

No, the score reports for the Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments released on March 24, 2021 will remain the same. You can view a sample CBSSA score report on the NBME.org website <https://www.nbme.org/assessment-products/assess-learn/self-assessment-services> by clicking on the Resources tab and looking under the heading “Sample Performance Feedback Reports.”

Is there repeated content on the updated Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessments that were released on March 24, 2021?

Yes, approximately 20% of the questions were previously used on CBSSA forms 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Which of the updated forms should I take?

The updated forms were all built based on the same content and statistical specifications and are interchangeable. No form is better than another form.

Are there resources available with examples of the updated content?

Yes, USMLE has provided updated practice materials for Step 1 on the USMLE.org website. https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-1/samples_step1.pdf

Where can I view the Webinar that was held on March 2, 2021?

You can watch the recorded webinar [here](#).

Have questions or other feedback about NBME® Self-Assessments?

E-mail us at AssessmentServices@nbme.org. Or, you can message us on Twitter @NBMENow or Facebook @NBME.org.

