



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

Updated July 28, 2021

Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessments (CCSSAs)

When did updated Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessments (CCSSAs) become available for purchase?

On July 28, 2021, three updated CCSSAs, designated by form numbers 9, 10 and 11, became available for purchase on the [MyNBMESM Examinee Portal](#).

Which CCSSAs retired?

Forms 6, 7 and 8 of the CCSSA series retired on July 28, 2021.

How long will I be able to access CCSSA forms 6, 7 and 8 that I have already 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 July 27, 2021, you will be able to access your assessment until October 25, 2021, to launch and complete it.

Do the updated CCSSAs (forms 9, 10 and 11) include answer explanations?

Yes. The CCSSAs that became available for ordering on July 28, 2021 (forms 9, 10 and 11) include [answer explanations](#) for both correct and incorrect answer choices.

Were explanations added to CCSSA forms 6, 7 and 8 before they retired?

No. Answer explanations were not added to these forms. However, updated forms 9, 10 and 11, which became available for ordering on July 28, 2021, contain in-depth answer explanations.

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 [MyNBMESM 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 on to the MyNBMESM Examinee Portal, there are two 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 two years from the purchase date.

Can I still purchase CCSSA forms 6, 7 and 8?

These forms were available for purchase until July 27, 2021; you will have 90 days from your purchase date to complete them.

I already purchased form(s) 6, 7 or 8. Can I switch to an updated form (9, 10 or 11) when they become available?

Yes. If you have not yet started the form, you may change the form once the updated forms are available on MyNBMESM Examinee Portal. 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.

Are the updated CCSSAs aligned with the United States Medical Licensing Examination[®] (USMLE[®]) [Step 2 Clinical Knowledge \(CK\) content distribution changes](#) announced in 2020?

Yes. The updated CCSSAs (forms 9, 10 and 11) released on July 28, 2021, feature new questions on assessing system-based practice, patient safety, legal/ethical issues and professionalism—all important topics in the advancement of clinical knowledge and skills to align with Step 2 CK content distribution changes.

Is there repeated content on the updated CCSSAs for release on July 28, 2021?

Yes. Approximately 20% of the questions on forms 9, 10 and 11 were previously used on CCSSA forms 6, 7 and 8.

How many questions appear on the updated CCSSAs?

The number of items that appear on forms 9, 10, and 11 have increased from 184 to 200. There are 50 items in each section. As a result of the additional items, the time to complete each section for standard pacing has increased from 1 hour and 9 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes.

General

Where can I order NBME Self-Assessments?

NBME Self-Assessments can be ordered on the [MyNBMESM Examinee Portal](#).

What do all the acronyms stand for?

- **CBSSA**: Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (Correlates to Step 1 content)
- **CCSSA**: Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessment (Correlates to Step 2 CK content)
- **CCMSA**: Comprehensive Clinical Medicine Self-Assessment (Correlates to Step 3 content)
- **Step 2 CK**: Step 2 Clinical Knowledge of the United States Medical Licensing Examination[®]
- **USMLE[®]**: United States Medical Licensing Examination[®]

Which self-assessments contain 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)
- Family Medicine Self-Assessments
- Emergency Medicine Self-Assessments

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 free resources available with examples of the updated content?

Yes, USMLE has provided updated practice materials for Step 1 on the [Practice Materials page of the USMLE website](#).

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.

What other resources are available to continue my learning and enrich my knowledge?

Today, students can continue to enrich their knowledge by:

- Watching two collections of [Unlocking Assessment, a free web series](#) designed to help students better understand NBME-created test questions.
- Reviewing [free practice materials for USMLE®](#) Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 3.

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.

