



Common Questions about NBME[®] CCSE Score Report Changes

For Examinees

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COMPREHENSIVE CLINICAL SCIENCE EXAM (CCSE)

COMMON QUESTIONS

What is changing on the CCSE score reports?

Score Reports for Examinees

For each content area, the Examinee Performance Report will include an equated percent correct (EPC) score, the average EPC score for a USMLE® Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) comparison group, and boxes indicating whether performance was lower, the same, or higher in relation to the comparison group. The boxes indicating whether content area performance was lower, the same, or higher than one's overall performance are going away.

In addition, the report will show your estimated probability of passing the Step 2 CK exam if you take it within one week of your CCSE (i.e., with a similar level of knowledge as when you took CCSE). This estimated probability will be calculated based on a large group of students who tested within one week of taking Step 2 CK for the first time. Of course, many factors may impact performance on Step 2 CK and the estimated probability is not a guarantee of future Step 2 CK performance.

There will be an additional score report for you showing the content description of each question, whether your response was correct or incorrect, and the percentage of students nationally who answered the question correctly.

What's not changing?

- Overall performance will still be reported as a 3-digit score. This score represents estimated performance on Step 2 CK if you had taken it under the same conditions and with the same level of knowledge as when taking CCSE. Please remember that estimated performance based on taking CCSE is not a guarantee of future performance on Step 2 CK. Many factors may result in a Step 2 CK score that is higher or lower.
- There will still be a histogram depicting overall performance. It will show the distribution of Step 2 CK scores for a national comparison group, with lines indicating your specific score and the low-pass range for Step 2 CK, which corresponds to performance that is above but near the minimum passing score. The average Step 2 CK score for the comparison group will also be indicated.
- All content areas are staying the same. The percentage of the test comprised by each content area will continue being reported.
- The boxes indicating whether performance was lower, the same (average), or higher in relation to a Step 2 CK comparison group will still be provided.

The new EPC scores that will be reported for each content area can help provide more detail about areas of strength and weakness, and the boxes that will continue being reported are designed to help you interpret your results as accurately as possible.

When will the new CCSE score reports be released?

The new score reports will be released on December 5, 2022.

Will CCSEs still report a 3-digit score?

Yes, the 3-digit score corresponding to the USMLE Step 2 CK score scale will be reported because Step 2 CK numeric scores are still reported.

What does equated mean?

Equating is a statistical procedure that adjusts scores for slight variations in exam form difficulty so all scores are comparable regardless of which exam form is taken. Both the 3-digit score and EPC scores on CCSE reports are equated.

What are the benefits of an equated percent correct score?

Equated percent correct scores tell you how much of the content you mastered using the familiar 0-100 scale so you can easily understand your performance, including areas of strength and weakness.

How does equated percent correct differ from classic percent correct?

Equated percent correct scores are statistically adjusted to account for slight variations in exam form difficulty, so they can support more accurate comparisons than unadjusted percent correct scores.