EMS Board Certification… The Journey Continues

Disclosures

- Editor-In-Chief, EMS Question Bank and EMS In Training Exam
- Contributor, ACEP/NAEMSP Board Review Course

In Brent We Trust
The Good News

- There are now 655 Board Certified EMS Physicians
- ABEM EMS Board Certification is being incorporated into medical director job qualifications
- Non-AACGME fellowship trained physicians will no longer be able to apply after the 2019 application cycle
- Candidates have 4 testing cycles to pass the test
Grandfathers (and Grandmothers)

- The EMS practice pathways will close at the end of the 2019 application cycle
- Practice Pathway
  - Within the past 6 years, must have "completed a minimum of 60 months of EMS practice of at least 400 hours per year"
- Practice + Training Pathway
  - Completed and "Acceptable", Uncredited Fellowship* and
  - Within the past 6 years, must have "completed a minimum of 24 months of EMS practice of at least 400 hours per year"

Candidates Per Exam Cycle

ACGME Accredited Fellows/Programs
2017 EMS Subspecialty Exam Pass Rate

2016 Emergency Medicine Passing Rates Among EM Residency-Eligible First Time Test Takers
Qualifying Examination 93%
Oral Certification Examination 97%

• Year 5 EM vs 5 EMS Results:
  65% vs 63%
  p = 0.431

Data From: ABEM 2016-7 Annual Report
“The purpose of subspecialty certification in EMS, as defined by ABEM, is to standardize physician training and qualifications for EMS practice, to improve patient safety and enhance the quality of emergency medical care provided to patients in the prehospital environment, and to facilitate integration of prehospital patient treatment into the continuum of patient care.”

“Our results identified gaps in our EMS system that we were able to address in the form of policy and protocol workgroups. We recognize that our review of the text and the recommendations we generated from this review are not a “one size fits all” … but rather a standardized approach.


EMS Question Bank

2015 Board Certification Rate

All Test Takers Qbank Qbank + Course


2015/2016 & 2016/2017 In Training Exam

- 168 items based on the EMS Core Content and Exam Blueprint
- Total Fellows = 111
- ACGME fellows = 99
- Scores predictive of obtaining board certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scores</th>
<th>Projected Passing Rate</th>
<th>Actual Passing Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 80.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.0 - 79.0%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>60.0 - 69.9%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 60.0%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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What Can ABEM Do?

• Further break down the exam blueprint
  • Emergency medicine model of clinical practice is broken down into 20 content areas, the largest of which represents 10% of the exam. It is further divided by Acuity Frames and Physician Tasks.
  • EMS exam blueprint is broken down into 4 content areas, the smallest of which represents 10% of the exam.
• Offer an In Training Exam when feasible

What Can We Do?

• Create high quality primary source material
• Harmonize references and text books
• Work to improve study materials/review courses/practice items
• Study (and then study some more)
• Take the Test Again

The Journey Continues...

“The decision by ABMS is one measure of success and validation for thousands of EMS physicians. However, the greater success lies not within this destination, but rather in the journey to come. That journey shall be a road to maturing the new subspecialty, expecting EMS subspecialty certification for EMS medical directors, continuing research efforts, ensuring vigorous application of science and evidence to improve care, and realizing a vision of EMS practice as an attribute of our health care system for the benefit of the population we serve.”