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NBME UPDATES

for Medical School and Student Services



Update to NBME Web-based Test Administrations at Medical Schools

To enable medical school faculty and students to continue their important work during this unprecedented time in our history, you and your colleagues have worked with NBME to identify alternative assessment delivery methods. Today we are able to identify the future solutions with their anticipated implementation dates so that you can plan accordingly.

Subject Examinations

NBME is working to enable medical schools to deliver Subject Exams to students in dispersed remote locations, including the students' residences. **The target date for schools to begin implementation is April 7, 2020.** NBME will provide ongoing updates about progress toward this date, as well as more details about support and processes schools can use to facilitate exam delivery, in subsequent updates.

At this time, this new mode for delivery and implementation will not involve high-security remote proctoring tools. Given this modification in administration conditions, caution is advised when interpreting individual student performance as well as when comparing scores to scores from previous administrations, and when making inferences based on the national comparative data provided on score reports and norm tables. The integrity of these administrations will rely on the honor system and codes of conduct of the educational institution.

To supplement these alternative remote test administrations, NBME will also modify the secure delivery technology to allow schools and institutions, who wish to do so, to monitor examinees via commercial video conferencing software. While there is not an ideal substitute for in-person proctoring and the social norms it facilitates, in this way proctors may remotely observe students during test administration. We suggest that each proctor remotely observe up to 25 students' testing and we recognize that these are extraordinary circumstances. It will be up to schools to manage proctoring to the best of their ability. NBME will provide more details about the process for this interim solution. We also commit to develop a more robust remote proctoring system for the future.

Customized Assessments

NBME continues to explore capabilities for delivering customized assessments to students in remote settings. We do not yet have an identified timeline to offer this service. As we work through the possibilities, we will have to temporarily suspend access to and delivery of Customized Assessment tests to limit risks of exposure of the secure test items. **Customized Assessment administrations will be suspended effective March 25, 2020.** Access to the Customized Assessment interface will continue to be available for faculty to build or modify examinations.

NBME Self-Assessments

NBME Self-Assessment Services will continue to be available, without interruption, for purchase directly by students through MyNBME or to institutions through the Voucher Program. Self-Assessments are useful tools for students who wish to assess their readiness to take USMLE or NBME Clinical Science Subject Exams. Because self-assessments are directly available to students online and are a non-secure exam service, we recommend that any schools that use NBME Self-Assessments use caution in placing emphasis on these assessments when generating school-based grades.

NBME is committed to working with medical schools to support changes that you may need with your purchases across the products and services. We will continue to reach out to you. Please feel free to contact us at assessmentservices@nbme.org.

With best regards,

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