1. **What is the appropriate use of ITE scores?** The only validated use of ITE scores is to provide a single point-in-time measure that allows EM residents and their faculty to determine the residents’ degree of preparedness for taking the ABEM Qualifying Examination.

2. **Can I compare my program’s ITE scores with other residency programs?** No. The ITE is not a program evaluation tool nor is it a recruiting tool. ABEM has never ranked resident training programs and believes that ranking programs is not in the best interest of the specialty.

3. **Can I share a resident’s score outside of the program?** ABEM privacy rules require a resident’s written permission before sharing scores outside the program. Scores should be held in confidence between the program director and the resident. The only validated use of the score is to predict success on the Qualifying Examination.

4. **Can residents discuss the content of ABEM’s ITE after its administration?** Yes. The ITE is viewed as a learning opportunity. ABEM policy allows residents to discuss the content of the examination so long as test questions are not used or shared in any enduring form.

5. **Are candidates for ABEM’s certification exams allowed to discuss those exams’ content with others?** No. ABEM’s certification process is categorically different since its purpose is assessing whether a candidate meets the standards for certification. Candidates taking the Qualifying or Oral Certification examinations should be aware of this difference to avoid the consequences of violating ABEM’s irregularity policies.

6. **How is the reported ITE score determined?** After calculating a resident’s count of questions answered correctly, a statistical process called equating is applied to arrive at the reported score. For security purposes, the ITE is administered using multiple versions. Equating is necessary to ensure scores reflect the same level of ability across examination versions and years.

7. **How is the percent predicted to pass the ABEM Qualifying Examination calculated?** ITE scores can be used to predict performance on a resident’s first attempt on the Qualifying Examination. To predict Qualifying Examination scores, residents’ ITE scores from recent administrations are matched to their first Qualifying Examination scores. The results of this analysis are shown on the residents’ report and in the “Summary of Residents Taking The 2021 In-training Examination by EM Residency Training Level” included with the score reports.

   Beginning in 2019 new prediction models were reported. To increase the reliability of the predictions, the models are now tailored to each level within the two largest program training formats (e.g., PGY 1-3 or PGY 1-4). Because of this, one program’s predictions may not be the same as another program’s.

8. **Why are EM Residency Training Levels 3 and 4 no longer combined on the ITE Score Reports?** There is now a sufficient sample size to provide an accurate predictive model for each level separately, as well as for different predictive models for the PGY 1-3 and PGY 1-4 formats.
9. Can my program’s predicted probability be compared to a program that trains residents in a different format (e.g., PGY 1-3 vs PGY 1-4)? No. In addition to the different prediction model between program formats, a program does not have a predicted chance to pass; a resident does.

10. Why is some information missing on my resident’s score report? Residents in combined training programs, advance match residents, and residents in international programs represent groups too small and diverse to provide useful comparison data.

11. What is the standard error of measurement? Every examination score contains a degree of measurement error. To assess this error, ABEM uses a statistic called the standard error of measurement (SEM) which is calculated using a reliability statistic (coefficient alpha) and the standard deviation of ITE scores. The SEM is similar to, but not the same as confidence intervals used for inferential statistics.

12. How is percentile rank calculated? The percentile rank is calculated for each score by adding the percent of residents at each EM residency training level who achieved that score or less.

13. Who can I contact if I have a question about my program’s reports? If you have any questions about your program’s ITE reports, please contact Kevin Joldersma, Ph.D., at kjoldersma@abem.org.

14. How are score reports sent to programs? Score reports are emailed to the current program director. The 2021 ITE reports are anticipated to be sent to all participating programs in April 2021.

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