2020 Medical Toxicology Certification Examination: Scoring
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. **How was the passing score determined?** The passing score is 72. The passing score was determined through a structured group process involving physicians practicing medical toxicology. The standard-setting process is based on ABEM’s approved standards for Medical Toxicology practice. All candidates meeting the standard pass the examination.

2. **What is the pass rate on the 2020 examination?** The pass rate for the reference group is 78%. The reference group is composed of all candidates who have completed a two-year Medical Toxicology fellowship and are first-time takers of the examination. The pass rate for all candidates is 76%.

3. **What is my percentile rank among all candidates who took the examination in 2020?** The Medical Toxicology Certification Examination is a criterion-referenced examination, meaning that candidates pass or fail and their relative standing is not relevant. Therefore, percentile rankings are not calculated and are not available.

4. **How was my score determined?** Your score is determined by the total number of questions you answered correctly, relative to the number of scored questions. The Medical Toxicology Certification Examination is criterion-referenced; that is, all examinees pass who score at or above the passing score. Quotas or required percentages of candidates passing are not used to determine the passing score.

Not all the questions on the examination were included in the scoring. Some were being field-tested for future use. In addition, the statistical performance of each question received a thorough review before the examination was scored. Questions that did not meet quality standards were not used in determining the candidates’ final scores.

5. **Can results be obtained by phone or fax?** No. Examination results will not be reported or confirmed by phone or fax. This policy is intended to assure the confidentiality of all candidate scores. Since ABEM emails candidates to notify them when scores are available, maintaining up-to-date contact information through your ABEM Personal Page will ensure you receive the results as soon as possible.

This document includes answers to the most frequently asked questions concerning how the examination was scored and how the scores are reported. If you have a question that this document does not answer, please contact the ABEM office:

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Please include your candidate identification number (shown on your score report) in all correspondence.

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