

American Board of Emergency Medicine  
American Board of Pediatrics  
American Board of Preventive Medicine

## 2020 Medical Toxicology Cognitive Expertise Examination: Scoring

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. How was the passing score determined?** The passing score of 76 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 all examinees is 97%.
- 3. What is my percentile rank among all candidates who took the examination in 2020?** The Medical Toxicology Cognitive Expertise 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 Cognitive Expertise Examination is criterion-referenced; that is, all examinees that earn a score equal to or higher than the passing score pass the examination. Neither quotas nor percentages of examinees passing are used in determining 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?** No. Examination results will not be reported or confirmed by phone. 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.

If you have a question that this document does not answer, please address your question to:

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East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Email: [abem@abem.org](mailto:abem@abem.org)  
Telephone: 517.332.4800

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET

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

**December 2020**