



## Policy on Candidate Illness

### **BACKGROUND**

Illness during an examination may necessitate terminating a candidate's examination. This policy is intended to define the options available for responding to this situation.

### **POLICY**

A candidate who voluntarily terminates an examination due to illness must be excused by the ABEM designee before leaving the examination to have examination rescheduling and scoring options.

ABEM designees have the right to remove a candidate from an examination because of illness that renders the candidate physically incapable of completing the examination or because of evidence of ill health that in the opinion of the ABEM designee impairs the ability of the Board to administer a full and fair examination to the candidate.

A candidate who is excused or removed by the ABEM designee because of illness will be given the option of having his or her examination scored. If a candidate chooses to have the examination scored, the passing criterion will be the same as is used for examinees taking the total examination, e.g., 75% of the questions that are designated for scoring, not 75% of the test items completed by the candidate.

Alternatively, the candidate may reschedule and retake the examination. If a candidate reschedules and retakes the examination during the same examination administration, the first examination the candidate took cannot be scored. This option is only available for examinations given over multiple days with more than one test.

If the ABEM designee does not excuse the candidate, the candidate may not reschedule the examination during the same examination administration, and the candidate's examination will be scored using those questions or cases completed without alteration of the passing criterion.

If an ABEM candidate terminates or is removed from an examination due to illness, fees will be handled as defined in the ABEM Policy on Fees. Candidates from other sponsor boards shall be handled in accordance with the established policies of the individual's sponsor board.

### **PROCEDURES**

The ABEM designee determining whether to remove or excuse a candidate will be the chief examiner, if one is present or another ABEM designee if a chief examiner is not present. The ABEM designee will typically be the testing center supervisor.

If the Chief Examiner or other ABEM designee excuses the candidate, the candidate will have 30 days after a written inquiry from ABEM to decide whether he or she wants the examination scored.

ABEM candidate protest of the decision of the chief examiner or ABEM designee is guided by the ABEM Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of a Certification or Maintenance of Certification Examination. Interested candidates should refer to this policy. Protests of candidates from other sponsor boards shall be handled in accordance with the established policies of the individual's sponsor board.

**EXCEPTION**

This policy is not applicable to the Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment test.

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