



Policy on Field Testing Examination Items

BACKGROUND

Field testing all certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) examination test items assures candidates that only content-valid and statistically sound items and oral cases will be selected for examinations, and that the overall difficulty of each examination will be controlled during its development.

POLICY

It is the policy of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) that all certification and MOC examination items be field-tested. Evidence of an item that does not meet ABEM standards for quality causes that item to be deleted from scoring.

Test items developed and selected specifically for use on the in-training examination and Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) tests are not field tested prior to their initial use as a scorable test item. In-training items are reviewed prior to scoring. LLSA items are reviewed periodically.

PROCEDURES

The field test cases and items administered at each certification and MOC examination are intended to test the validity of the test item, and not intended to test the clinical competence of the candidate.

Field test items are selected based on the examination blueprint and are influenced by the content needs for the coming examination year.

EXCEPTION

None

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