



Policy on Loss of Examination Data

BACKGROUND

For any examination administration, there is an unlikely possibility that all or part of a candidate's data could be lost, or that incomplete data might be collected. This would be a rare event and the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has historically taken great care to assure that it does not happen. The Board of Directors has approved a policy that clearly defines the options available for responding should such a situation occur.

POLICY

ABEM will make all reasonable efforts to recover lost data for any examination that a candidate has completed and for which he or she has provided answers.

Multiple Choice Examinations

In the event that partial data from a multiple choice examination are irretrievably lost, the candidate will be given the option of rescheduling the examination or having his or her examination scored. The option to have the examination scored only applies if he or she has completed 80 percent of the questions on a multiple choice certification or continuing certification examination. If the candidate has answered fewer than 80 percent of the questions, or the candidate chooses not to have the examination scored, the examination will be rescheduled as explained in the section below on Examination Rescheduling.

If the candidate chooses to have that multiple choice examination scored, the passing criterion will be the same as is used for examinees taking the total examination. If a candidate reschedules and retakes the multiple choice examination during the same examination administration, ABEM will not score the first examination the candidate took.

Oral Certification Examination

In the event that fewer than 80 percent of the cases can be scored from a completed Oral Certification Examination, the score will be invalidated, and the candidate will be given the option of rescheduling the examination to another Oral Certification Examination administration or having his or her examination scored. In this case, see the section below on Examination Rescheduling.

If partial data on the Oral Certification Examination is lost and the candidate chooses to have that Oral Certification Examination scored, the passing criterion will be the same as is used for examinees taking the total examination.

If candidate data for an individual oral case encounter is irretrievably lost or unobtainable for any reason, including technical failure or administrative error, and no opportunity exists to retrieve the case encounter, the Chief Examiner may drop that case from scoring without providing the candidate with scoring options.

Examination Rescheduling

Candidates for any multiple choice examination who do not receive a score due to a loss of data will be allowed to reschedule during the same examination administration, if timing permits. Candidates for any Oral Certification Examination who do not receive a score due to loss of data will be allowed to reschedule into a future Oral Certification Examination administration.

Candidates rescheduling due to a loss of data will not be compensated for travel costs to the examination site, loss of time, loss of certification benefits, or any other costs incurred by the candidate resulting from the loss of data. Fees for ABEM candidates will be handled as defined in the Policy on Fees. The fees for candidates from other sponsor boards should be handled in accordance with the established policies of that individuals' sponsor board.

Candidates affected by a loss of Lifelong Learning Self Assessment (LLSA) test data will be granted an additional opportunity to take the test.

PROCEDURES

Candidates who must retake an examination due to a loss of data will be given priority in scheduling.

EXCEPTION

Residents and residency programs participating in the low-stakes, In-training Examination affected by a loss of data may be allowed to reschedule within the same examination administration, if possible. If this is not possible, ABEM will refund the examination fee for any affected residents to the affected programs.

APPEALS

An ABEM candidate protest of the handling of a loss-of-data situation is guided by the Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of an ABEM Examination or the Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Tests. Interested candidates should refer to these policies. Candidates from other sponsor boards shall be handled in accordance with the established policies of the individuals' sponsor board.