Policy on Scoring Candidate Examinations

BACKGROUND

This policy guides the American Board of Emergency Medicine's (ABEM's) response to various special requests by candidates concerning the handling of examination scores.

POLICY

It is the policy of ABEM to routinely score all examination data and report all examination outcomes in accordance with standard scoring procedures. Only completed examinations will be scored (see Examination Completion and Scoring Criteria, below).

PROCEDURES

All candidates will be informed of the Policy on Scoring Candidate Examinations in the *Policies and Procedures* document and other informational materials distributed at the time of application and prior to each examination.

Requests for exceptions to this policy are forwarded for a decision to the chair of the Test Administration Committee, or the Chief Examiner for subspecialty examinations, as appropriate.

Examination Completion and Scoring Criteria

- ABEM examinations other than the LLSA and MyEMCert will be considered completed and will be scored whenever 80 percent of the items or Oral Certification Examination (OCE) cases have been completed. The LLSA will be scored when the physician submits the test for scoring, regardless of the number of items completed. MyEMCert will be scored when the physician submits the assessment, regardless of the number of items completed or whenever the time limit is reached, whichever comes first.
- An item on a multiple choice test that is omitted by the candidate is counted in the completion criteria if any item following it in sequence is answered.
- An OCE case is considered completed if the case is terminated by the examiner in the normal conclusion of the case and case scoring has been approved by a chief examiner.
- If a candidate attempts an examination two or more times in the same examination administration window, only the final attempt will be scored.
- The same criteria for passing and scoring will be used for multiple choice examinations, regardless of how much of the examination is completed.
- The passing score for the OCE for omitted cases will be added to the candidate's average so that the same overall passing score can be used. In this way, dropping a difficult or an easy case will neither advantage nor disadvantage the candidate. Effectively, this is the same as using the average of the passing scores for the completed cases.

- If the reason for an examination being incomplete is due to loss of data, an administrative error, a technical error, or an examination being cancelled by the exam administrator, the procedures outlined in the Policy on Loss of Examination Data will apply.

EXCEPTION

Candidates who fall under the Policy on Oral Certification Examination Administration, Policy on Examination Administration in Testing Centers, Policy on Loss of Examination Data, or the Policy on Candidate Illness, may be given the choice of whether or not their exam will be scored. See those policies for specifics.