



## **Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of an ABEM Examination**

### **BACKGROUND**

In the event any candidate wishes to protest the conduct or administration of an American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) examination, the following policy will apply. Candidates may file a written request for investigation on site, immediately following the examination, or upon receipt of examination results. It is the intent of the Board that all concerns be handled as expeditiously as possible. Any subsequent appeal of a decision resulting from the application of this policy will be handled according to the established appeal process of the candidate's sponsor board.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of the ABEM that all examination candidates have the right to request investigation into the conduct or administration of an ABEM examination.

ABEM determines the content of each Emergency Medicine examination, and the Subboard or examination committee determines the content of each subspecialty examination. Candidate requests for investigation of an examination based on issues involving examination content alone are prohibited. Candidate requests for investigation of an examination based on scoring methodology alone are prohibited.

The administering board determines the method of delivery for each examination. Candidate requests for investigation of an examination based solely on the mode of examination delivery are prohibited.

Examination investigations based on this policy will be automatically terminated if the candidate becomes certified or recertified prior to the resolution of the examination investigation or any subsequent, related appeal.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **On Site or Post-examination**

Each candidate is encouraged to voice any concerns at the examination site. Alternately, candidates may file a written request for investigation postmarked within ten days after taking an examination. Such a request should be addressed to the chief examiner, clearly stating the reasons for the request.

Upon receipt of the request, the chief examiner or designee shall review the submission and, after conducting an appropriate investigation, shall render a decision in writing to the candidate within 90 days of the postmark date of the request. Notification of examination results shall be delayed until a decision is provided.

### **Post-examination Results**

Following receipt of examination results, candidates may file a written request for investigation within 15 days of the notification of examination results. Such a request should be addressed to the chief examiner and must clearly state the reasons for the request.

Upon receipt of the request, the chief examiner or designee shall review the submission and, after conducting an appropriate investigation, shall render a decision in writing to the candidate within 90 days of the postmark date of the request.

### **APPEALS**

ABEM candidates and ABEM-certified physicians may submit a written appeal of the chief examiner's decision following the procedures outlined in the appeal process associated with the Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of an ABEM Examination. Appeals to the decision of the chief examiner concerning the administration of an Oral Certification Examination case will be accepted only when there is the potential for the appeal to change a candidate's examination result from a fail to a pass.

Subspecialty exam candidates from sponsor boards other than ABEM should request the appropriate appeal process from their sponsor board.

### **EXCEPTION**

#### **Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) Tests**

Given the relatively public nature of LLSA and the individual, self-directed nature of the LLSA test administrations, certain additional limitations exist on the ability of candidates to protest the conduct or administration of an LLSA test. Refer to the ABEM Policy on Candidate Requests for Investigation of Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment Tests.