



IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION SCORE INVALIDATION

BACKGROUND

In the interest of maintaining the highest standards of integrity and fairness, ABEM has implemented a policy to address score invalidity on the In-Training Examination (ITE). ABEM reserves the right not to report a score, or to cancel a previously reported score, where it has good faith reason to believe the score is invalid (*i.e.*, that the score does not represent a reasonable assessment of a test taker's knowledge or competence as sampled by the examination).

The performance of all residents is monitored and may be analyzed statistically to detect performance anomalies. Anomalies may include, but are not limited to, irregular answer patterns, similar response patterns between test takers, and/or statistical inconsistencies. Other information may also come to the attention of ABEM that raises questions regarding score validity, such as information related to a program's adherence to test administration guidelines. When such anomalies or other information are identified that call into question the validity of an ITE score, a thorough investigation is conducted to ensure the validity of the ITE is upheld.

POLICY

ABEM reserves the right to take any necessary measures to protect the integrity of its examinations. ABEM reserves the right to withhold or cancel an examination score if it has a good faith basis for questioning the validity of the score. This decision does not imply any misconduct or testing irregularities on the part of the examinee, and ABEM is not required to make a finding of misconduct or testing irregularities before withholding or cancelling a test score based on validity concerns. ABEM may, however, conduct a separate investigation and take further action under the ABEM Policy on In-Training Examination Irregularities based on information it learns related to score validity.

ABEM may withhold the release of scores or cancel previously released scores if ABEM has a good faith basis to question the validity of the scores. The applicable program director(s), department chair(s), designated institutional official(s), and test taker(s) will be notified in the event a score is withheld or cancelled.

Given the purpose and use of ITE scores, in the event an ITE score is withheld or cancelled based on validity concerns, there will be no opportunity for a retest unless otherwise required by ABEM.

ABEM may invalidate some or all examination scores for a program or programs when there is a good faith basis for questioning the validity of the scores.

EXCEPTIONS

None.