Policy on Acceptable Use of Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Test Materials

BACKGROUND

Because of the educational nature of the Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) component of Maintenance of Certification (MOC), the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) encourages appropriate educational use of LLSA test materials. LLSA test materials are copyrighted, however, and ABEM prohibits inappropriate use of these materials. The intent of this policy is to define the acceptable use of copyrighted LLSA test materials by authorized users of the test, i.e., ABEM-approved test-takers, and non-test takers licensed by ABEM to access LLSA test materials.

Approved LLSA test takers include ABEM diplomates participating in MOC, and former ABEM diplomates attempting to regain their ABEM certification. Non-test takers licensed to display LLSA tests are also bound by this policy and include Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)-approved course providers, and Emergency Medicine (EM) residency training programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This policy applies to all ABEM-administered LLSA tests.

POLICY

The Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment tests (LLSA) and the format and all original content of abem.org are the copyrighted property of ABEM. Individuals or institutions authorized by ABEM to use LLSA test materials may do so subject to the following terms:

- Authorized users may participate in discussion groups using the LLSA test

- Authorized users may not alter the LLSA test or any of its items

- Authorized users may not distribute copies of the LLSA test or any of its items

- Authorized users may not develop and distribute or publish any answers to LLSA items

- Authorized test takers may download the LLSA test for personal educational use only

- Authorized test takers may not use the LLSA test or any of its items for any commercial purpose whatsoever

Use of LLSA Test Materials by ACCME-approved Course Providers
Continuing medical education (CME) course providers, including Medical Toxicology diplomates who are ACCME-approved course providers, may use LLSA tests for ACCME-approved educational activities. Use of LLSA tests in these courses is limited to access via the ABEM website by individual ABEM diplomates taking one or more tests unless the course provider is licensed by ABEM to project a copy of an LLSA test, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the test's Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Test License Agreement.

Use of LLSA Test Materials by ABEM-licensed EM Residency Programs
EM residency programs may have access to the content of LLSA tests for educational purposes only. Use of LLSA tests by residency programs is limited to viewing a static, non-functional copy of the LLSA test provided by ABEM following the execution of a licensing agreement with ABEM. Use of this non-functional copy of the test is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the test's Residency Program Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Test Licensing Agreement. Residents may not take an active LLSA test.

Copyright
Reproduction of the LLSA tests or any part thereof for commercial purposes, in whole or in part, is a violation of ABEM copyright.

PROCEDURES

ABEM copyrights all LLSA tests and provides notice of ABEM's ownership of each LLSA test. Any test takers' agreement to abide by ABEM copyrights is integrated into the routine process that participants use to access each LLSA test. All participants must attest that they agree to abide by ABEM copyrights each time they access an LLSA test.

ACCME-approved course providers and residency program directors who wish to project a copy of an LLSA test or tests to stimulate group discussion can request a Lifelong Learning Self-Assessment Test License Agreement for individual LLSA tests by contacting the ABEM office.

If ABEM determines that this policy has been violated, the ABEM Policy on Examination Irregularities and U. S. copyright laws will apply.

EXCEPTION
None

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