



Policy on Field Testing Examination Items

BACKGROUND

The primary purpose of field testing certification and continuing certification examination test items assures candidates that only valid content and statistically sound items and oral cases will be selected for examinations, and that the overall difficulty of each examination will be controlled during its development.

POLICY

It is the policy of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) that certification and continuing certification examination items are field tested. Not all examinations will necessarily include field test items. Evidence of an item or case that does not meet ABEM's quality standards will be deleted from scoring.

Select test items developed and selected specifically for use on the In-training Examination, Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) tests, and MyEMCert modules are not field tested prior to their initial use as a scorable test item. In-training items are reviewed prior to scoring. LLSA and MyEMCert items are reviewed periodically.

PROCEDURES

Field test cases and items administered on certification and continuing certification examinations are primarily intended to test the integrity of exam content and its psychometric properties.

Field test items are selected based on the examination blueprint and are influenced by the content needs for the coming examination year.

EXCEPTION

None