

NBME UPDATES

For Medical School and Student Services

February 16, 2017

NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination Timing, Length, and Pricing Change Effective May 10, 2017

The timing and total number of items for the web-based Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) will increase beginning May 10, 2017.

The time allotted to complete each exam section will increase by 12 minutes so that the time per item corresponds to the time per item on USMLE Step 1. In addition, the total number of items will increase to 200 to provide more precise total test and content area feedback.

As a result of these changes, the length of the exam session will increase by 48 minutes. See the chart below for timing and item count changes.

| Current # of Items | New # of Items | Current Total Session Time | New Total Session Time |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 184 | 200 | 4 hours, 42 minutes | 5 hours, 30 minutes* |

*Total session time will include new exam timing, increased exam item count, a 15-minute tutorial, and an optional 15-minute break.

Changes will be made to the score categories to align with those that were made for USMLE Step 1 in 2016. Score reporting turnaround time will remain the same.

NEW: Effective May 10, 2017, the fee for CBSE exams administered at Prometric ONLY will increase to \$141 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2017. Additional Information regarding the Subject Examination fee schedule for 2017-18 will be distributed via NBME Updates on February 23, 2017.

Reminder: Web-based Testing Support and Ordering Blackout Effective March 21-22, 2017

Please be advised that you will be unable to place orders for test administration for **Tuesday, March 21, 8:00 AM EST until 12:00 PM EST on Wednesday, March 22, 2017**. During this time, web-based testing support will also be unavailable. We apologize for the inconvenience that this may cause. This period of downtime is necessary to improve our service to you long term. Examinations scheduled at Prometric on these dates will not be affected. Please forward the notification on to staff responsible for placing orders and administering exams.

If you have any questions, please contact the NBME Subject Examinations team at subjectexams@nbme.org.

Medical School Services | National Board of Medical Examiners
Send questions or comments to medicalschoolservices@nbme.org

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