

# NBME UPDATES

For Medical School and Student Services



August 5, 2015

## NBME Clinical Science Subject Examinations: New Score Scale Now in Effect

As [previously announced](#), on August 5, 2015 scores for the NBME clinical science subject examinations will be reported on a new score scale.

<b>Which Examinations' Scores Will Change?</b>	<p>The following exams (paper &amp; web forms) are now being reported on the new score scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical Neurology</li><li>• Family Medicine Modular (web only)</li><li>• Medicine</li><li>• Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</li><li>• Pediatrics</li><li>• Psychiatry</li><li>• Surgery</li></ul> <p>The <a href="#">content outlines</a> for these examinations will not change. Similarly, there will be no changes to examination length or <a href="#">timing</a>.</p>
<b>The New Equated Percent Correct Score Scale</b>	<p>The new score scale for these subject examinations is an equated percent correct score. This new score will reflect an examinee's mastery of the content domain, calculated as a percentage of items in the total content domain that would be answered correctly based on an examinee's proficiency level. The scores are equated across test administrations and are statistically adjusted for variations in difficulty across examination forms. Consequently, these scores can be used to compare and track school and examinee performance over time.</p> <p>Similar to the old scores, the new equated percent correct scores will retain the previous subject examination scores' usefulness as a tool for comparing the performance of a school's examinees with that of a large, nationally representative group taking the examination as an end-of-clerkship assessment.</p>

<b>Score Feedback</b>	<p>All current score feedback will continue to be provided; the content and format remain the same, but have been updated to reflect the new score scale. Updated and new score feedback includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Score Interpretation Guide</li> <li>• Roster of Equated Percent Correct Scores</li> <li>• Equated Percent Correct Score Descriptive Statistics and a frequency distribution (if at least two tested)</li> <li>• National norms for each exam translated to the new score scale</li> <li>• Grading guidelines to assist faculty in determining appropriate scores for passing and honors level</li> <li>• Content Area Detailed Item Analysis Report</li> <li>• Content Area Item Analysis Summary Report</li> <li>• Examinee Performance Profiles</li> <li>• Comma-separated file of scores reported on the roster</li> <li>• A new comma-separated file of the Content Area Detailed Item Analysis Report</li> <li>• Score equivalency table for each exam provided to convert scores from the old scaled score to the new equated percent correct score scale</li> </ul>
<b>All Score Reports Released Effective August 5, 2015</b>	<b>All score reports held during the week of July 29 through August 4 have now been released and posted to the NBME Services Portal (NSP).</b>
<b>Learn More!</b>	<p>Informational webinars for medical school faculty who want to learn more about these changes to the clinical science subject examinations have been scheduled. These webinars will provide an opportunity to ask questions about rescaling, the new score scale, score feedback, and grading guidelines.</p> <p>Click on a date below to register:</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday, August 12</a>   1:00 - 2:30PM EDT</p> <p><a href="#">Thursday, August 27</a>   1:00 - 2:30PM EDT</p>
<b>Questions</b>	<p>If you have specific questions about this rescaling and score scale change, please contact us at <a href="mailto:subjectexams@nbme.org">subjectexams@nbme.org</a>.</p>

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