



# ABFAS NEWSLETTER

for Residents

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## Preparing for the ITE: CBPS

### What is Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) testing?

The ABFAS In-training Exam is made up of two parts, the didactic exam and the Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) exam. The purpose of the latter, the CBPS format, is to evaluate candidates' clinical reasoning skills, a type of testing called performance-based testing.

CBPS allows you to demonstrate your abilities to examine a patient and formulate a treatment plan by collecting and analyzing information.

You must be specific in how you handle each case.

**The key to successful completion of a CBPS case is to recognize that the case is no different than the assessment and complete work up of a new patient in the office or clinic.**



### ITE CBPS Exam Structure:

CBPS is comprised of three main parts, the Stem, the Media Panel, and the Tabs.

#### Stem:

Each exam has a stem, which presents the case. The stem may or may not be accompanied by visuals. You will gather evidence by asking for information from the drop-down lists, analyzing the information, and proceeding through the exam.

You should read the stem and determine a differential diagnosis or the problem being presented.

#### The Media Panel:

The stem may or may not be accompanied by visuals shown in the media panel.

You can click on the thumbnail image in the media panel to see a larger view.

#### Tabs:

Each case will have four tabs:

- Physical Examinations
- Labs, Imaging, Diagnostic Procedures
- Diagnosis
- Treatment

Following the tabs from left to right simulates the way a typical patient encounter occurs. However, the physical examination, labs, imaging, and diagnostic procedure tabs may be accessed in any order. For example, if you think it would best to request a diagnostic procedure before you proceed with your physical exam, you can move to the "Diagnostic Procedures" tab to request the procedure and then go back to the "Physical Examinations" tab later.

Note: In some questions, not all tabs appear.

### How to Navigate the ITE CBPS Exam:

1. First, read the case history and comments at the top of the screen.
2. Following the tabs (physical examination, labs, imaging, etc.) from left to right will simulate the way a typical patient encounter occurs. However, the physical examination, labs, imaging, and diagnostic procedure buttons may be accessed in any order. In some questions, not all tabs appear.
3. After completing these areas, press the "Diagnosis" button and select your diagnosis. Then, press the "Treatments" button to provide treatment recommendations. Some cases also ask for follow-up diagnoses and follow-up treatment.
4. When you're done with the question, press the "Finish Case" button. You will then be forwarded to the next case (or taken to a brief survey after finishing all the cases scheduled for that session).

ABFAS suggests you take the CBPS practice exam several times before taking the scored exam. It is critical for you to be familiar with the database and how to use the search function. You can find the practice exam on our website, at: [abfas.org/practice](http://abfas.org/practice)

## ABFAS Online Study Guide Updated



The ABFAS Online Study Guide now offers separate Foot and RRA multiple-choice didactic practice exams. We recommend that all residents take the Foot Didactic practice exam as they prepare for their ABFAS In-training Exams (ITEs). Residents in RRA programs should also take the RRA Didactic practice exam.

The new didactic practice exams reflect the format of the ITE as well as the Major Subject Areas that appear on the exam. The practice exams are designed to help residents gain an understanding of the format and type of topics to be expected on the In-training Exams. However, the practice exams are not designed to be predictive of performance on the actual In-training exam.

ABFAS also encourages residents preparing for the ABFAS ITEs to take the CBPS practice exam. The practice exam enables residents to familiarize themselves with the computer screens and functionality of the CBPS exam. Studies have shown that candidates who do not practice the CBPS examination spend valuable test time learning the CBPS system and often run out of time on cases.

If your residency program has registered you for the ABFAS In-training exam, you can access the ABFAS Online Study Guide and CBPS practice exam through the ABFAS website. The sign-in credentials for the study guide and practice CBPS exam are the same as what you use for PRR.

## In-training Exam Scoring

The In-training Examination is composed of 90 adaptively-administered multiple-choice (didactic) items and eight Computer-Based Patient Simulation (CBPS) items designed to measure the knowledge and interpretive skills deemed appropriate for a podiatric surgical resident.

The didactic section reports scores for six subject areas judged important to the practice of podiatric surgery as well as a total score. Due to the small number of items in each subject area, the subject scores have lower reliability than the total score and should be interpreted with caution. They are reported only for feedback purposes and to allow you to grossly assess your relative strengths and weaknesses among the defined subject areas. Because subject areas have a varying number of items, they are weighted differentially in the total score. You cannot, therefore, obtain your total score by averaging your reported subject area scores.

The CBPS section reports scores for four subject areas and a total score. The report does not provide numerical values due to the small number of items; however, there is a narrative explanation of how the resident performed on those subject areas.

## ABFAS Profile Update

ABFAS reminds you to log into your profile and confirm all contact information, including email address and mailing address is up-to-date. Please also confirm that all licenses are up-to-date. To update your license information, email your license information to [licenses@abfas.org](mailto:licenses@abfas.org) or you can fax your information at: 415.553.7801

## #footfirst

ABFAS and our DPMs are #footfirst! ABFAS is looking for photos of residents studying, performing cases, interacting with feet, performing on feet, or even just hanging out with other residents. Send your best photos to [footfirst@abfas.org](mailto:footfirst@abfas.org) so we can share them on social media, in our magazines, and online. We will select a monthly winner with the best photo who will receive a great ABFAS prize and recognition on our Facebook page. Don't forget to share your photos using: **#footfirstABFAS**



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