Preparing for the ITE: CBPS

What is Computer-based Patient Simulation (CBPS) Testing?

The ABFAS In-training Examination 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 typical patient encounter occurs. However, the 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 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 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.

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 media panel 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:

Although the number and type of tabs may vary from case to case, each case generally has six 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.

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 exams 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. The CBPS section is scored to evaluate candidates’ clinical reasoning skills, a type of testing called performance-based testing. 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 a per tab 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 included. 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 or you can fax your information at: 415.553.7801.

#footfirst

ABFAS and our DPMA’s 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 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.