



## IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION IRREGULARITIES

### BACKGROUND

In the interest of maintaining the highest standards of integrity and fairness, the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) has implemented this In-Training Examination (ITE) Irregularities Policy for cases in which such irregularities are detected or suspected.

### POLICY

ABEM reserves the right to take any necessary measures to protect the integrity of its examinations. This could include, but is not limited to, exclusion from a current or future examination and a suit for recovery of damages. Furthermore, ABEM reserves the right to take legal action against any individuals, including organizers, trainers in Board preparation courses, or program faculty, who are directly implicated in examination irregularities.

ABEM defines an examination irregularity as any activity or behavior that is intended to gain or provide an unfair advantage for oneself or others in taking an examination or otherwise compromise the integrity of the examination or the certification process. Examples of examination irregularities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying answers from another resident or permitting one's answers to be copied
- Accessing outside information during an examination administration
- Unauthorized possession, reproduction, recording, or disclosure of examination materials, including examination questions or answers, whether before, during, or after the administration of an examination
- Assisting another resident during their examination in any manner
- Unauthorized use of cell phones or other technological devices during an examination
- Participation in activities claiming to provide actual ABEM examination questions and/or answers
- Failure to follow ABEM policies or rules or other rules (e.g., test center rules) applicable to the test administration
- Impersonating an examinee or having someone impersonate the examinee
- Altering or misrepresenting examination scores
- Other compromises to the integrity of an examination, as determined by ABEM in its sole discretion

Any unauthorized possession, reproduction, recording, or disclosure of ITE content, including examination questions and answers, at any time (whether before, during, or after examination administration) is a breach of ABEM policy and is strictly prohibited. All test questions and answers are the property of ABEM and may not be possessed, reproduced, recorded, or disclosed in any form (e.g., orally, digitally/electronically, or in other writings) for any purpose, including but not limited to examination preparation or training.

**BE ADVISED:** ABEM policy no longer allows for any discussion of ITE content following examination administration.

If a program director, program faculty, or their designee(s) observe or discover any examination irregularities, they must immediately report the irregularity and the individual(s) involved to ABEM. ABEM may require program directors to participate in ABEM's investigation of and/or response to instances of detected or suspected examination irregularities, including but not limited to requiring a written explanation of their program's adherence to ABEM's ITE administration agreement and/or any actions taken by the program with respect to the issue. In the event that an examination irregularity occurs two or more times in a residency program, ABEM reserves the right to require that all residents in that program take future ITEs at a Pearson VUE testing center, at the program's expense.

A resident or any other person found to have engaged or assisted in any examination irregularity is subject to sanctions imposed by ABEM in ABEM's sole discretion, including, but not limited to, a bar (temporary or permanent) from future ABEM examinations and/or certification, score invalidation, termination of any existing or future relationship with ABEM, suit for recovery of damages, or other appropriate action.

ABEM reserves the right to notify any third parties with a legitimate interest in the matter of the pendency of any irregularity investigation and/or the results of any irregularity investigation.

ABEM may prohibit a resident or other individual who is being investigated for examination irregularities from taking another ABEM examination or place restrictions on the manner of testing while the investigation is ongoing.

ABEM's procedures for responding to information regarding ITE examination irregularities are set forth in the In-Training Examination Irregularities Procedure.

## **EXCEPTION**

None.