



NBPME Reports

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter

NBPME Examinations are Valid, Reliable and Consistent with Industry Standards

In July 2006, the Council of Deans of the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM) and the Board of Directors of the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) convened a three-member panel to conduct an independent audit of the July 2003 and July 2004 NBPME Part I Examination. The panel included Dr. Gerald Rosen, a measurement psychologist appointed by the AACPM, Dr. Mark Raymond, a measurement psychologist appointed by the NBPME, and Dr. Patrick Jones, a measurement psychologist selected by Drs. Rosen and Raymond. Each panel member has extensive training and experience in psychometrics and with the design, development, administration, scoring and evaluation of credentialing examinations. Dr. Jones served as the Chair of the panel.

Excerpts from the report (the entire report can be found on our website: www.nbpme.com)

1. The procedures used to develop, administer and score the Part I Examination were consistent with industry standards given the design of and goals for the testing program. The test specifications appeared to be based, for the most part, on the results of a well-designed job analysis study, and care was taken to ensure that the July 2003 and July 2004 forms of the Part I Examination were constructed to meet the test blueprint based on the outcomes from the job analysis study. The methods used to develop and review test items were sound, and input was gathered from subject matter experts who were familiar with the content areas of the test blueprint and the educational preparation of the candidate population along with item development specialists from Thomson Prometric. Construction of the test forms was based on the test specifications and care was taken by Thomson Prometric to ensure that item cueing was avoided. The test was administered in a standardized and secure fashion, and test results were scored in a manner designed to promote accuracy and rigor. The reporting of test scores was consistent with industry practices. The procedures used to generate criterion-referenced passing scores were properly designed and conducted, and the NBPME Board was provided with sufficient information to establish cut scores for each test form.
2. An evaluation of the item and test statistics indicated that the reliability of test scores was sufficient for the purpose of the examination program. The validity of test scores was generally advanced by the methods used to develop, administer and score the exam.

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3. Variation in pass rates observed for the administration of the July 2003 and July 2004 Part I Examination may have been due to the following factors. These factors include the composition and psychometric characteristics (e.g., difficulty and discrimination) of the test forms, the administration of only new items on the test that eliminated candidates' prior access to test content, the cut scores used to determine passing status, and changes in the ability level of the candidates. Candidate ability is influenced by their suitability for an educational program in podiatric medicine, their level of preparation for the Part I Examination, and other candidate-specific factors (e.g., motivation, persistence, confidence).

It is not surprising to find significant variations in cut scores and passing rates for the July 2003 and July 2004 testing periods. The Part I Examination was comprised of all new items and the cut scores were based on the pooled judgments of subject-matter experts (i.e., Angoff ratings). The Angoff standard-setting procedure – in the absence of other test development, score equating, and score scaling techniques – is not adequate to assure the comparability of pass/fail standards from one year to the next, and it is not an effective procedure to construct a score scale that reflects a consistent level of ability over time. Having noted these issues, the panel also acknowledges that security breaches observed in 2002 most certainly interfered with the ability of the NBPME to maintain comparable pass/fail standards and a consistent score scale through the use of equating or linking methods.

Recommendations

The panel suggested recommendations for the AACPM Council of Deans and NBPME to consider in test development and also to facilitate a more cooperative relationship between the Deans and the Board.

These recommendations are an integral part of the Audit Report, which can be found at www.nbpme.com.

Annual Meeting

1. Elections

A. New Members of the Board elected are Thomas B. Leecost, MD, DPM representing the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards and Roy B. Corbin, DPM, a State Board Member.

B. Officers elected for 2006-07

President-Robert A. Christman, DPM, MEd
Vice President-Jeffrey S. Gerland, DPM
Treasurer-Stephen F. Stern, DPM

Dr. Christman was also elected to a third term as a College Educator.

C. Murray Goldstein, DPM from Florida and John McCord, DPM from Washington state retired from the Board after nine years and six years respectively. We salute them for their tireless efforts in helping the Board maintain the validity and reliability of our three examinations which are used by State Boards in licensing podiatric physicians.

Annual Meeting (continued)

D. Doctor to be Marie Keplinger, APMSA Representative, completed her term as student liaison. She represented students in an exemplary and professional manner. Her willingness to discuss student issues in an open and cordial fashion will be surely missed.

2. Background of the new Members

Roy B. Corbin received his Doctor of Podiatric Medical Degree from the Illinois College of Podiatric Medicine after earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He also completed a rotating residency program in podiatric medicine and surgery from the New College of Podiatric Medicine and affiliated hospitals. Dr. Corbin is certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery. He is a member of the State of Maine Board of Licensure of Podiatric Medicine and currently President-Elect of the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards. Other relevant professional activities include team podiatrists for a professional basketball team in Maine and Chief, Podiatry Section, Department of Orthopedic Surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital and Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Thomas B. Leecost was graduated with a Doctor of Podiatric Medical Degree from the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. He also received a M.S. in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University and a B.S. in Chemistry from Delaware State University. His Doctor of Medicine Degree was awarded by the University of Health Sciences. Dr. Leecost is certified in Foot and Ankle Surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery. He is a member of the Virginia Board of Medicine. Tom also has been President of the Virginia Podiatric Medical Association and President of the National Podiatric Medical Association. Dr. Leecost has twenty-five years of administrative experience in the United States Army where he achieved the rank of Colonel (USAR).

New Policies Governing No Show, Late Arrival, Rescheduling and Refunds

Candidates will not be entitled to a refund of their application fee if they (1) fail to appear for a scheduled Test, (2) present himself/herself more than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time for taking the Test and is refused admission to the Test, or (3) change or cancel a Test after the applicable cancellation deadline as follows:

- Parts I and II-Ten (10) days or less before the scheduled Test
- Part III-Less than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled Test

In addition:

Candidates for Parts I and II who change a scheduled Test appointment 11 to 28 days before their scheduled Test shall not receive a refund. Rather, the test may be rescheduled one time for a \$100 Rescheduling Fee payable to Thomson Prometric.

Candidates who cancel the test prior to 28 days before the scheduled test may apply for a refund minus a service charge of \$100.00. All requests for refunds must be made in writing.

NBPME Meeting with APMSA Leaders

President Christman, Vice President Gerland and Executive Director Gibley met with student leaders at the beginning of the APMSA House of Delegates. The hour-long session was an opportunity for NBPME and APMSA to discuss areas of mutual interest. The student questions were insightful and led to considerations governing our test development activities (example-establishment of the passing score). NBPME is more than willing to continue these discussions on an annual basis. In the interim, we encourage students to contact the Board office with their issues/questions.

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