American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Instructions for the 2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination

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Examination Format

The 2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination is comprised of 220 multiple-choice questions. Please review the 2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination Content Outline on the website for detailed topic specifications. The examination questions will be delivered in four sections comprised of 40-60 items each. ***You can review questions only within sections. (However, you cannot review questions within a Vignette section.) Once you finish the section, you cannot go back into it. There is no review of all questions at the end of the exam.*** There is a nondisclosure agreement (NDA) that candidates must sign, followed by on-screen instructions at the beginning of the examination. At the conclusion of the examination, there is a five-minute end-of-examination survey.

During the examination, there are optional breaks between each section. The optional breaks will be offered after one section is completed and before the next section begins. Examination time continues to run during optional breaks, so candidates must manage their own time. Allotted time for the entire examination, including NDA, instructions and survey, totals five hours. The 2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination Format

	Section	No. of Questions	No. of Video Clips	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement			
	On-Screen Instructions			
4 hrs 50 min	1	41-47	3-4	Vignette
	Optional Break*			
	2	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	3	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*			
	4	50-60	NA	Stand-alone
5 min	End-of-Examination Survey			

*A proctor must log candidates in after breaks. Candidates must be signed in and out each time they enter and leave the testing room.

Question Type and Review

There are two types of questions in the 2018 Neurology Maintenance of Certification Examination: stand-alone and vignette. *Stand-alone* questions are one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that are not

associated with any other questions. *Vignette* questions are typically comprised of two to ten multiple-choice questions linked to a common case that may be presented in a video clip, which may vary in length from 30 seconds to three minutes, or in a text vignette. The video questions require the use of headphones to be provided by Pearson VUE. Each vignette question must be answered in order to advance to the next question.

Vignette questions cannot be flagged for review because answers to already-answered questions may be revealed in subsequent questions. Once a candidate has answered a question, the candidate cannot go back to the question and must completely answer the displayed question before moving on to the next question. To familiarize candidates with video questions, please view sample vignette provided here.

Standalone multiple-choice questions can be flagged for review or skipped, but after completing a section a candidate *cannot* review questions in that section again.

Scoring

In addition to subtest scores, candidates will receive a total percent correct score (percentage of questions answered correctly, rounded to the nearest whole number). An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the total score to pass the examination. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of candidates.

Questions that may be included in the examination solely for research or pretesting purposes will not be included in the examinee's score.

No candidate is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the ABPN, each candidate should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question. Even though the candidate may be in doubt about the correct answer to a particular question, he or she should answer every question. This will increase the likelihood that the candidate's examination score will reflect the breadth of his or her knowledge of the field. There is no penalty for guessing.

Examination Functions

To familiarize candidates with the examination functions, several examination screenshots with explanations are provided here. In addition to the general functions, such as Time Remaining and Number of Questions, please pay special attention to the functions for Comment, Scratch Pad, Highlight, Strikethrough, Flag for Review, Section Map/Drug List/Tutorial, Navigator, and other functions related to examination questions.