



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

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

Instructions for the Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care

Examination Format

The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care is comprised of 270 multiple-choice questions. Please review the Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care Content Outline [on the website](#) for detailed topic specifications. The examination questions will be delivered in five sections comprised of 54 questions each. **You can review questions only within sections. 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 examinees must accept, 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 30 minutes of pooled break time available for use. Break time can be accessed during the optional breaks that are offered between each section. Examinees can use as much or as little break time as they see fit during any given optional break (lunch time is included as part of the pooled break time); however, please note that if you exhaust the entire amount of pooled break time (30 minutes) before the end of the examination, any time spent on subsequent breaks will decrease your available remaining examination time. To monitor the amount of break time taken and/or remaining, examinees should pay close attention to the Total Break Time Remaining field displayed on the break screens. If a negative number is displayed in the Total Break Time Remaining field, then the allotted break time has been exhausted and your examination will have the amount of time displayed deducted from your overall examination time. Examinees are expected to manage the pace and timing of the examination themselves. Allotted time for the entire examination, including NDA, instructions, and survey, totals five-and-one-half hours. The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care Format table below demonstrates the examination delivery structure.

Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care Format

	Section	No. of Questions	Format
5 min	Nondisclosure Agreement		
	On-Screen Instructions		
4 hrs 50 min - Test Time 30 min - Pooled Break Time	1	54	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	2	54	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	3	54	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	4	54	Stand-alone
	Optional Break*		
	5	54	Stand-alone
5 min	End-of-Examination Survey		

*This is part of the pooled break time. A proctor must log examinees in after breaks. Examinees must be signed in and out each time they enter and leave the testing room.

Question Type and Review

The Subspecialty Certification Examination in Neurocritical Care is comprised entirely of one-best-answer multiple-choice questions that can be flagged for review or skipped.

Scoring

Examinees will receive a standard score for the total test. An acceptable level of performance must be achieved on the total standard score to pass the examination. The standards are not norm-referenced; there is no predefined passing rate for any group of examinees. In addition, examinees will receive a graphic diagnostic report for their performance on various subtopics of the examination.

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

No examinee is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the ABPN, each examinee should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question. Even though the examinee 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 examinee'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 examinees with the computer-based examination interface, functionalities, and types of questions that they will find on an operational examination, there is an online Subspecialty Certification Demonstration Examination that can be found on the ABPN website [here](#).

NOTE: This is a close representation of an operational examination but not an operational examination itself. You WILL NOT be able to review your answers or receive a score after you have completed the demonstration exam.