

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF PODIATRIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Part III Examination Candidate Information Bulletin

Examination Dates	Registration Deadlines
Wednesday, June 3, 2009	April 24, 2009
Wednesday, December 2, 2009	October 23, 2009

-- IMPORTANT NOTICE --

Before you send in your Part III Registration Form, please contact the State Board in the state where you would like to be licensed. Your eligibility will be determined by the state once you satisfy the state's requirements. Prometric can only release your Authorization to Test (ATT) upon approval of the State Board.



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Introduction

NBPME overview

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) is a nonprofit corporation established in 1956.

The NBPME organization consists of 12 members: two members nominated by the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards; an educator at one of the Colleges of Podiatric Medicine; one member who has had professional experience in statistics and test development; one member representing the consuming public; three individuals from state licensing boards; a podiatric physician currently in practice; and three individuals with experience either: on the Council on Podiatric Medical Education, as a member of a Specialty Board, or as the Director of a Podiatric Medical Residency Program. A representative of the Board of Trustees of the American Podiatric Medical Association, a representative from the Council of Deans and a representative from the American Podiatric Medical Students Association each serve in a liaison capacity with the Board.

The NBPME has contracted with Prometric Inc., a Delaware corporation, to conduct its examination program. Prometric delivers and administers tests via the World Wide Web or by computer through a network of test centers in over 130 countries.

At a glance

This Candidate Information Bulletin provides details about taking the NBPME Part III examination. The steps below summarize that process.

To take the NBPME Part III examination

- 1 Contact the Licensing Board in the state in which you wish to be licensed. A list of State Boards can be found in this Bulletin beginning on Page 15.
- 2 Once the state has determined your eligibility to test based on the state's requirements, complete the examination registration form and send it to Prometric, along with the exam fee(s). Examination registration forms are available online at www.nbpme.com/Downloads.htm.
- 3 Once your exam registration form has been approved, you will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter and must then contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take your exam (see Page 4).
- 4 Prepare for your exam, using this Bulletin and other discipline-related materials. The content outline in this Bulletin is the basis for the exam (see page 13).
- 5 Take the scheduled exam, bringing your ATT letter and required identification to the test center (see Page 5).
- 6 Your exam results will be reported to the State Board where you applied approximately two weeks after you take the exam (see Page 9).

To get answers not provided in this bulletin

If you read this Bulletin and have further questions about the registration process, fees, test centers, Authorization to Test letter or score reports, you may contact:

Prometric/NBPME
 1260 Energy Lane
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 Phone: 877.302.8952
 Web site at www.prometric.com/nbpme

Examination overview

The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) examinations are written qualifying exams currently recognized or utilized by legal agencies governing the practice of podiatric medicine in the states, provinces, and federal agencies listed in this Bulletin beginning on Page 15. Legal agencies may, at their discretion, grant successful candidates a license to practice podiatric medicine without further written examination.

The NBPME examinations consist of three objective examinations: Part I, Part II, and Part III (formerly known as The Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination for States).

Exam descriptions

The **Part I exam** is generally taken after the completion of the candidate's second year of study. It samples the candidate's knowledge in the basic science areas of General Anatomy; Lower Extremity Anatomy; Biochemistry; Physiology; Microbiology and Immunology; Pathology; and Pharmacology.

The **Part II exam** is generally taken near the completion of the candidate's final year of study. It samples the candidate's knowledge in the clinical areas of Medicine; Radiology; Orthopedics, Biomechanics and Sports Medicine; Anesthesia and Surgery; and Community Health, Jurisprudence, and Research.

The **Part III exam** is a licensing examination designed to determine whether a candidate's knowledge and clinical skills are adequate for safe practice. Clinical skills refers to the application of knowledge needed by entry-level podiatrists to evaluate, diagnose, and treat patients. Examples of the application of knowledge may be measured through photographs, radiographs and case presentations. The content outline for the Part III examination can be found on Page 13.

Exam eligibility

The Part III exam is given to candidates who have applied or who are applying for licenses and who have met, or will meet, the state's own criteria for licensure for independent and unsupervised general practice. To take the Part III exam, candidates must hold a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree and have made application for a license in one or more of the participating states.

Exam sequence policy. Currently, it is the opinion of the NBPME that the examinations should be taken in sequential order. Participating states may already require the successful completion of Parts I and II before a candidate is eligible for Part III. Beginning January 1, 2010, NBPME will require podiatric physician candidates to take and pass the NBPME exams in sequential order (Part I must be passed before Part II may be taken, Part II must be passed before Part III may be taken). Since each exam part assumes that prior knowledge has been achieved, this new policy will require candidates to demonstrate mastery of basic knowledge before advancing into clinical knowledge and skills assessment.

Scheduling and registration process

Before you may test, you must:

- 1 Register and pay for your exam by the registration deadline.
- 2 Receive your Authorization to Test (ATT) letter.
- 3 Contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take an exam.

Registration information

The **Part III** examination is given on the first Wednesday of June and the first Wednesday of December. Completed registration forms and fees must be received by Prometric by the registration deadline date.



Note If Prometric receives your registration form and fee after the deadline date, you may not be able to take the exam until the next exam administration.

Examination dates

Dates for 2009 are:

Examination Dates	Registration Deadlines
June 3, 2009	April 24, 2009
December 2, 2009	October 23, 2009

NBPME Part III exam fees

You are responsible for paying the \$900 examination fee to the State Board or to Prometric. Payment may be made by certified check, cashier's check or money order made payable to the NBPME. Personal checks and cash are not accepted. State Boards may assess other fees as required by statute or regulation.

Exam and related fees are as follows:

Service	Fee
Exam Registration	\$900
Personal Check return ¹	\$25

¹ If a personal check is received, both the check and the registration form will be returned and a \$25 service fee will be charged. The registration form will need to be resubmitted with an acceptable form of payment.

Refund/Rescheduling policies

If you submit your registration form and fee and are then deemed ineligible to sit for the examination, you will receive a refund of \$800. A \$100 service charge is withheld by the NBPME. Application fees cannot be transferred to another exam administration, since application must also be made to the State Board.

If you cancel a scheduled exam 28 days prior to the exam date, you may request a refund (exam fee minus \$100 service charge). All requests for refunds must be made in writing to Prometric. You must also notify Prometric in writing of your cancellation intention by faxing your request to 609.895.5022, by emailing to NBPMEinquiry@prometric.com, or by mailing to the address on Page 1. **Do not** leave a message on an answering machine – it does not constitute official notification.

If you need to cancel your exam 11 to 28 days prior to your scheduled exam date, you will not receive a refund. However, you may reschedule your exam one time for a \$100 rescheduling fee.

If you have requested nonstandard accommodations, you must call the Special Conditions Coordinator at 800.967.1139 to cancel an examination.

You **will not** be entitled to a refund of your exam registration fee if you:

- 1 Fail to appear for your scheduled exam.
- 2 Show up more than 30 minutes after the scheduled exam start time and are refused admission to the exam.
- 3 Change or cancel an appointment 10 days or less before the scheduled exam.

If an examination administration is canceled due to weather conditions or other major difficulties, the test center will, whenever possible, announce the cancellation on the local radio. If cancellation is necessary, candidates will be rescheduled for another appointment at no additional cost.

A candidate who needs to reschedule an examination appointment because of a medical emergency may mail a written request and official documentation, such as a doctor's letter, to the Prometric NBPME Program Administrator at the mailing address on Page 1. Such a request must be made within the two-week period following the scheduled exam date. No refund of exam fees is guaranteed.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Candidates requesting testing accommodations under the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* must contact Prometric at 877.302.8952 for approval **before** submitting their examination registration form. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow candidates with documented disabilities that are recognized under the ADA an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Candidates should submit professional documentation of the disability in the form of a letter on the official letterhead of a licensed or certified professional qualified to diagnose and treat special conditions. A description of the accommodation(s) requested and any history of the accommodation should be included. Documentation and requests will be reviewed to determine if the accommodation will be granted. There is no extra charge to the candidate for making accommodations.

Candidates approved for nonstandard accommodations will receive their Authorization to Test (ATT) and then must call the Prometric Special Conditions Coordinator at **800.967.1139** to schedule an examination appointment. Individual test centers are not able to schedule appointments for candidates with nonstandard accommodations.

Scheduling exam appointments

Once your completed registration form has been approved, you will be mailed an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. You must then contact Prometric to schedule a location to take the Part III examination for the date listed on the ATT.

Authorization to Test (ATT)

ATT's will be mailed at least one month prior to the examination date. The ATT contains your test authorization number, identification number, and an expiration date. If any information on the ATT is incorrect, if you have not received your ATT at least one month before your exam date, or if you lose your ATT, you should contact Prometric immediately at 877.302.8952.

Appointment scheduling procedures

A list of test centers will be sent with your ATT. Be sure to check with the State Board where you wish to receive your license to verify if you are required to take the examination in the state that will issue the license. Then, follow these steps to schedule an appointment:

- 1 Contact Prometric by calling **800.722.2830**.
- 2 The call center staff will ask you for your name, phone number, ATT number, identification number, and authorized test date located on the ATT.
- 3 For scheduling purposes, expect your exam session to last up to four hours. Most candidates begin the exam within 30 minutes of their appointment time.
- 4 If your first choice of time is unavailable, you will be offered an alternative that is as close to the first choice as possible.
- 5 Make a note of when and where you have been scheduled for the examination. No confirmations of appointments will be sent. If needed, you should ask for directions to the test center.



Note Since seating at each exam site is limited, be sure to schedule your exam appointment **as soon as you receive your ATT letter**. If you wait to schedule, it may limit your choices of a seat location and, if all seats have been filled, you will not be able to take the exam until the next scheduled exam date.

Taking your exam

Knowing what to expect when taking your exam may help you prepare for it. This section contains:

- A list of what to bring to the exam.
- Regulations that will be enforced at the test center.
- An explanation of the computer testing process.

What to bring to the test center

You should arrive at least **30 minutes before** your scheduled exam appointment. This allows time for you to sign in and for staff to verify your identification.

You will need bring with you all of the following items:

ATT Letter. You must bring your ATT with you to the test center on the day of the examination. You will not be admitted to the examination without the ATT.

Identification document. You must present a valid, nonexpired form of identification before you may test. That identification document **must**:

- Be government-issued (e.g., driver's license, passport, state-issued identification card or military identification card);
- Contain **both** a current photo and your signature (if it does not, you must present two identification cards: one with your photo and one with your signature); and
- Have a name that exactly matches the name used on the NBPME registration and that matches the ATT (including designations such as "Jr." and "III").

If you cannot provide the identification listed above, contact Prometric **before** scheduling your appointment to arrange an alternative way to meet this requirement.



Important Failure to provide appropriate identification and your ATT letter at the time of the exam is considered a missed appointment. If you miss your appointment, or arrive late, you will forfeit your exam fees and be required to register again and pay another examination fee.

If the test center administrator questions your photo identification, a second form of signature-bearing ID will be required. Acceptable second forms of ID include: valid military identification card, citizenship card, or a current driver's license (does not have to have a photo). All forms of identification must have been signed before the day of test.

Test center regulations

To ensure that all candidates are tested under equally favorable conditions, the following regulations and procedures will be observed at each test center. Failure to follow any of these security procedures may result in the disqualification of your exam. Prometric reserves the right to audiotape and videotape any examination session.

References. No reference materials, dictionaries, books, papers or study materials are allowed at the test center. If you are found with these or any other aids, you will not be allowed to continue the exam and your answers will not be scored.

Electronic equipment. Cell phones, PDAs, pagers, cameras, and tape recorders are not permitted in the testing room and must be powered off while stored in a locker. You will not be permitted to use any electronic devices or phones during breaks.

Personal items. Digital watches, outerwear that is not being worn while testing (sweater, jacket, etc.), brief cases, purses, etc., are not allowed in the test center. Pocket items (wallet, keys, etc.) must remain in your pocket during testing or be placed in a locker. Disposable ear plugs will be available from the test center administrator, if needed.

You will be required to store all personal belongings (except for identification documents) in storage lockers. While the lockers are secure, they are small. Do not bring unnecessary items to the test center. The test center assumes no responsibility for candidates' personal belongings.

Sign-in/Biometrics. For security reasons, NBPME uses the Candidate Identity Management System (biometrics) at all Prometric test centers. When you arrive at the test center, you will be required to sign a signature log and have your fingerprints scanned. The date and time you enter and exit the exam room will be recorded and the signature log will be verified against the signature on your identification documents and your digital fingerprint. The fingerprint template is permanently erased within 48 hours after your exam is completed. If you leave the examination room while an examination is in progress, you must sign out/in on the log and will lose exam time.

Food and Beverages. You may not eat, drink, or use tobacco during the test administration.

Guests/Visitors. No guests, visitors or family members are allowed at the test center.

Misconduct or disruptive behavior. Candidates who engage in any kind of misconduct or disruptive or offensive behavior, such as giving or receiving help, taking part in an act of impersonation, removing test materials or notes from the testing room, rude or offensive language, or behavior that delays or interrupts testing, may be dismissed from the examination.

Weapons. No weapons of any kind are not allowed at the test center.

If questions arise. If at any time during the test you believe you have a problem with your computer or need the administrator for any reason, you should raise your hand. Test center administrators are not allowed to answer any questions pertaining to the test content. If you do not understand a question on the test, you should answer the question to the best of your ability.

The computer testing process

Your exam will be given by computer at a Prometric test center using Prometric's user-friendly, Microsoft Windows®-based, computerized testing system. Before you start the exam, you will receive a personalized tutorial to the testing system.

The tutorial features:

- Samples of how test questions are displayed on the computer screen during the exam.
- Directions on how to move the mouse and use the mouse to select answers.
- How to submit a test for scoring.

The test center administrator will provide you with a packet of scratch paper that may be replaced as needed during testing. You may not bring your own scratch paper or pencil to the examination. The test center administrator will collect all scratch paper (used and unused) upon completion of the examination. Removing scratch paper from the test center is considered an act of misconduct.

At the beginning of the exam, you will be asked to read and signify assent to the terms and conditions of the Confidentiality and Conduct Agreement, which states:

CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONDUCT AGREEMENT

The contents of this test are copyrighted, proprietary, and confidential. Any efforts to disclose or reproduce any portion of the test, its content or items therein in any part to any individual or entity for any purpose whatsoever is prohibited. Such activity may be responded to by test score invalidation for an individual or group as well as civil and or criminal prosecution.

I can be disqualified from taking or continuing to sit for an examination, or from receiving examination results, or my scores might be canceled if there is reason to believe through proctor observations, statistical analysis, or any other evidence that my score may not be valid or that I was engaged in collaborative, disruptive, or other unacceptable behavior during the administration of this examination.

You will have up to four hours to complete the NBPME examination. The tutorial is not included as part of the testing time. The time remaining for your exam is displayed in the upper right-hand corner of the computer screen. There are no scheduled breaks. You must remain in your seat during the examination except when authorized to leave by a test center staff member.

The clock will continue to run and will not be turned off for unplanned, unscheduled breaks. If there is a power outage, the time will stop counting down. When power is restored, the examination will resume at the point where it left off.

Once the examination is finished, you will be asked to complete a brief, computer-delivered questionnaire about your testing experience. If you have additional comments, you are encouraged to ask the test center administrator for a Comment Form.

Examination results

Score interpretation

Scores on NBPME examinations are determined by converting the number of questions answered correctly out of the number of questions administered to a scale that ranges from approximately 55 to beyond 75. The scale passing score has been set by the NBPME at 75, which corresponds to a level of achievement judged by the Board to represent minimum standards of practice.

Passing candidates will receive a score report with a "Pass" indicated. Failing candidates will receive a report with a failing scale score (between 55 and 74).

Examination reviews are not permitted.

Failing candidates will also receive diagnostic indicators for each content area. The diagnostic indicators will be reported to failing candidates as follows:

- Below the level of minimum competence.
- At or above the level of minimum competence.

It should be understood that the NBPME makes the data and information available but does not attempt to analyze or interpret it. Each State Board determines whether and how to accept and use NBPME examination results.



Note There is no limit to the number of times you may take the examination, however, some states do place a limit on the number of times a candidate may be examined and still receive a license. You should consult individual State Boards for more information about any specific state requirements and limitations.

The total score scale makes it possible to compare candidates' scores on a specific examination to scores on other forms of the same examination given the standard adopted by the NBPME. The comparison is possible because the examinations are statistically "equated" each time a new form is administered. The equating process makes appropriate adjustments so that equivalent scores on examination forms of different difficulty levels are made comparable. The purpose of equating is to maximize relative consistency in the Board standards for passing the examinations across forms.

Candidates' scores are converted to scaled scores in such a way that a particular score corresponds to the same level of achievement regardless of the form of the examination actually taken. In other words, a score of 75 on a specific examination has the same meaning as a score of 75 on any form of the examination. This means a candidate will not be penalized if the form of the examination taken is harder than the form given to another candidate.

Reporting of examination results

Part III examination scores will be reported to the State Board to which the candidate applied within two weeks following receipt of the examination records from the test centers.

State Boards are responsible for reporting pass/fail status to candidates with the exception of those State Boards who have given that responsibility to Prometric. Prometric reports the pass/fail status directly to candidates for State Boards in: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. State Boards using the Part III examination are denoted by an asterisk in the list beginning on Page 15.

The NBPME disapproves the use of exam results for any purpose other than the use for which the examinations were developed and conducted; namely, as an indication of minimum competence for purposes of licensure to practice. This warning includes using exam results for employment, externship, or residency selection. Licensure exams are mastery tests, not achievement or selection instruments.

Responsibility for the passing score

Each State Board has the ultimate authority for establishing the passing score in its state. NBPME, through its subcontractor, will recommend a cut score. Each State Board then defines its criteria for passing and notifies candidates of their pass/fail outcome, accordingly.

Score reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency of examination scores, the consistency with which candidates are classified as either passing or failing and the degree to which examination scores are free from errors of measurement. Errors of measurement may result from factors related to the examination, such as specific questions asked and an examinee's preparedness, or from factors not related to the exam, such as fatigue, personal interests or the attentiveness of an examinee on the day of the test. A person's score will not be perfectly consistent from one occasion to the next.

Certified score reporting

The Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) is responsible for disseminating official Part III examination results after the initial reporting of scores to the State Boards.

It is the responsibility of candidates to determine in advance that the State Board to which they will apply will accept Part III scores earned out of state. States may be required by law or regulation to apply their own scoring standards. Consequently, a passing score in one state might not be a passing score in another state.

Applicants for licensure who need to have their Part III score certified to another State Licensing Board may do so online at www.fpmb.org. Click the "Order Reports" button. After completing the online form, visitors have the option to pay for requests with their Visa or MasterCard credit card. Alternatively, requests may be printed and mailed to the FPMB with a check.

Part III score reports are generally \$45 per state, but charges can vary by state. For additional information, contact the FPMB Executive Office at 561.752.3735.

Comments, questions, concerns

Prometric provides an opportunity for general comments about the test center experience at the end of the exam. Prometric personnel will review candidate comments, but candidates will not receive a direct response.

If you are requesting a response concerning exam content, registration, scheduling or test administration (testing site procedures, equipment, personnel, etc.), you must submit an appeal in writing **within seven business days** following the exam administration.

Your appeal letter must provide your name and ID number, exam title, date tested, location where tested, details of the concern including all relevant facts, candidate's signature, return address, and (optional) Social Security number. Be sure to include your signature and return address. Mail your appeal letter to:

Prometric
ATTN: Appeals Committee
1260 Energy Lane
St. Paul, MN 55108

Prometric will review each concern and reply to comments within a reasonable length of time. Inquiries about scores or about eligibility and procedures for reexamination may also be directed to the address above. **Faxed appeals will not be accepted** because an original signature is required.

Examination integrity

Copyright

All proprietary rights in the examinations, including copyright and trade secrets, are jointly held by the NBPME and Prometric. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these test questions by any means, in whole or in part, without written permission. Doing so may subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties, including up to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine for criminal violations.

Score validity

The NBPME shall either retain or reserve the sole right to determine whether or not an examination is valid or invalid. The acceptance of a candidate's application to take the examination or the scoring thereof or the release of said examination results to any party shall not act in any way to amend the right of the NBPME to determine whether such examinations or the scores achieved thereon are valid or invalid in whole or in part.

A determination that an examination and the scores achieved thereon are invalid may be made at any time by the NBPME. The NBPME also reserves the right to cancel any scores that may already have been reported when subsequent information raises doubt of their validity.

Occasionally testing irregularities occur that affect a group of test takers. Such problems include, without limitation, administrative errors, defective equipment or materials, improper access to test content and/or the unauthorized general availability of test content, as well as other disruptions of test administrations (such as a natural disasters). When group testing irregularities occur, Prometric will conduct an investigation to provide information to the NBPME. Based on this information, the NBPME may direct Prometric to either not score the examination or invalidate the examination scores.

When appropriate, the NBPME will arrange with Prometric to give affected test takers the opportunity to take the examination again as soon as possible, without charge. Affected test takers will be notified of the reasons for the invalidation and their options for retaking the examination.

Candidate misconduct

The NBPME examinations, prepared by the Board and administered by Prometric, serve an important public function and no misconduct will be tolerated.

Before individual test results are canceled or invalidated, a candidate will be notified and given an opportunity to provide additional information.

If, during the administration of an examination, or after completion of the examination, a test supervisor believes misconduct is taking or has taken place, certain options shall be available to the test supervisor or Prometric.

- 1 A test supervisor may dismiss a candidate from the test and file a report with Prometric stating the action and the reasons for dismissal.
- 2 A test supervisor may choose not to dismiss the candidate from the test. Under such circumstances, the test supervisor will file an irregularity report with Prometric describing his or her observations.

In either event, when a test supervisor reports to Prometric that a candidate might have committed misconduct during an examination, that candidate's test record is reviewed by Prometric and the NBPME.

Grounds for dismissal

Any candidate who does not have positive identification, who uses unauthorized aids, or does not follow the testing procedures can be dismissed from the test center. The NBPME may choose to have the test scores of such candidates canceled.

A candidate who is believed to be engaging in misconduct and does not heed the administrator's warning to discontinue the behavior may be dismissed from the test center. All of the following behaviors are considered to be misconduct:

- Giving or receiving assistance of any kind.
- Using any unauthorized aids.
- Attempting to take the examination for someone else.
- Failing to follow testing regulations or the instructions of the test administrator.
- Creating a disturbance of any kind.
- Removing or attempting to remove examination questions.
- Tampering with the operation of the computer or attempting to use it for any function other than taking the examination.

Invalidation of results

The NBPME has the right to question any test score when the validity is in doubt because the score may have been obtained unfairly. Prometric, acting on behalf of the NBPME, will undertake a confidential review of the circumstances giving rise to the questions about score validity. If there is sufficient cause to question the score, Prometric will refer the matter to the NBPME, which will make the final decision on whether or not the score is to be withheld or invalidated. In the event the NBPME determines that a candidate's individual test results will be withheld or invalidated, or that a group of results will be withheld or invalidated, the NBPME will notify the candidate or group.

Appeals procedure for misconduct

Upon written request or application in accordance with the appeal procedure, a candidate whose individual score is withheld or invalidated due to specific individual misconduct may, within 15 business days of the notification, submit a written request for a hearing.

The purpose of the hearing will be to provide an opportunity for the candidate to produce sufficient credible evidence that the decision to invalidate his or her score was made in error and that he or she should have the score validated.

The appeal process is not available should a group of candidates' scores be withheld or invalidated.

The determination as to whether an appeal shall be granted to an individual candidate is made by the NBPME taking into consideration the circumstances of the invalidation decision.

The hearing procedures shall be as follows:

- 1** The time, date, and place of the hearing will be set by the NBPME.
- 2** The hearing will be conducted by three members of the NBPME.
- 3** At the hearing, the candidate may represent such evidence as he or she deems proper and necessary. The candidate may be accompanied by an attorney and witnesses of choice.
- 4** The NBPME may request the appearance of any witnesses at the hearing as it deems necessary.
- 5** At the end of the hearing, the three NBPME committee members will evaluate the information presented and reach a conclusion, at its sole discretion, and may decide:
 - a.** The candidate may retake the examination at a future date.
 - b.** The candidate will not be permitted to retake the examination at any time. (In this case, the candidate may request reconsideration and reinstatement by the NBPME after one year.)
 - c.** The test results represent a reasonable assessment of the candidate's knowledge in the areas sampled, and the candidate's scores may be released.
 - d.** Some other action should be taken.
- 6** The candidate will be advised in writing by the NBPME of its decision at least 10 business days prior to the next deadline to file a registration for retesting.
- 7** The NBPME reserves the right to notify a candidate's college of any of the actions or decisions described above.

A complete set of procedures that apply to appeal hearings is available upon request.

Limitation of liability

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Preparing for your exam

The Part III examination is comprised of 180 multiple-choice questions. You should look for the response that best answers the question and not be misled by other choices that might be only partially true. Answer every question. The answers you record determine your final score. Even if you are unsure of an answer, it may be better to guess. You will not receive credit for any unanswered questions.

No candidate is expected to obtain a perfect score. However, in the opinion of the examination committees of the NBPME, every candidate should have some degree of familiarity with the subject matter of each question.

The following is a detailed outline of the content areas covered by the Part III examination. The percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is noted.

Part III Exam Content Outline
180 questions—Four-hour time limit

I. Medicine – 25%

- A. Infectious diseases (e.g., bacterial; viral; fungal; parasitic)
- B. Neurological disorders (e.g., peripheral; central; spinal cord)
- C. Cardiovascular disorders (e.g., cardiac, peripheral; arterial; venous; lymphatic; vasomotor)
- D. Respiratory disorders (e.g., asthma; COPD; emphysema)
- E. Rheumatologic disorders (e.g., myopathies; infectious; rheumatoid; osteoarthritis; collagen diseases)
- F. Metabolic and endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes; gout; thyroid; renal; bone)
- G. Hematologic disorders (e.g., anemias including sickle cell; leukemia)
- H. Immunologic disorders (e.g., allergic and sensitivity reactions; immunosuppressive states)
- I. Emergency medicine (e.g., medical/surgical)
- J. Dermatology (e.g., local and systemic manifestations; infections; nails)
- K. Behavioral medicine (e.g., depression; abuse; anger disorders; noncompliant patients)
- L. History taking and communication skills (e.g., interpersonal skills)

II. Radiology – 20%

- A. Radiation protection and safety (e.g., radiation physics; biological effects; operator and patient protection; radiographic technique and development)
- B. Positioning
- C. Radiographic pathology (e.g., congenital conditions; infectious disease; arthritic disease; trauma; metabolic disease; neoplastic disease, avascular necrosis; biomechanical interpretation)
- D. Normal radiographic anatomy, variations, and developmental landmarks
- E. Special imaging modalities (e.g., CT scan; MRI; contrast studies)

III. Orthopedics, Biomechanics and Sports Medicine – 20%

- A. Normal and abnormal function and structure (e.g., muscular and neurologic systems; gait analysis)
- B. Trauma (e.g., acute; chronic; sprain; overuse; fractures)
- C. Physical medicine and rehabilitation (e.g., orthoses; bracing; modalities; shoes; biomaterials)
- D. Pediatric orthopedics (e.g., congenital; developmental)

IV. Anesthesia and Surgery – 30%

- A. General anesthesia (e.g., types of anesthetics; perioperative considerations)
- B. Regional anesthesia (e.g., spinal and local anesthesia; techniques)
- C. Intravenous sedation
- D. Surgical principles (e.g., wound healing; perioperative emergencies; hemostasis; surgical anatomy; biomaterials; fixation)
- E. Podiatric surgery (e.g., foot, ankle and lower leg procedures; complications; trauma; infections)
- F. Hospital and operating room protocol
- G. Integrated pain management

V. Community Health/Jurisprudence and Research – 5%

- A. Critical skills necessary for the analysis of medical literature (e.g., research design; basic biostatistics; epidemiology)
- B. Disease prevention and control (e.g., nutrition, substance abuse; standard [universal] precautions; OSHA regulations)
- C. Healthcare management (e.g., delivery systems; quality assurance; HIPAA)
- D. Jurisprudence (e.g., ethics; malpractice; licensure; controlled substances; informed consent; medical records; mandatory reporting)

Sample Questions

Directions: Each of the questions or incomplete statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

1. In addition to the treatment of gout, Zylorprim (allopurinol) is also effective in the treatment of
 - A. hypouricemia.
 - B. renal calculi.
 - C. hypoglycemia.
 - D. phleboliths.

2. In iron deficiency anemia, the morphology of the erythrocyte is usually
 - A. hypochromic, microcytic.
 - B. hypochromic, macrocytic.
 - C. hyperchromic, microcytic.
 - D. hyperchromic, macrocytic.

3. All of the following are likely contributing factors to this postoperative complication EXCEPT
 - A. immediate postoperative weight bearing.
 - B. medial capsulorrhaphy.
 - C. metatarsal head shape.
 - D. adductor hallucis tenotomy.



4. A 22-year-old male patient with a previous history of narcotic abuse underwent neuroma excision. Postoperative pain should be controlled with
 - A. Dilaudid.
 - B. Talwin.
 - C. Demerol.
 - D. Percocet.

Questions 5-6

A 55-year-old female patient presents with a chief complaint of painful, gradual swelling of the toes on her left foot of two-weeks' duration. There is no history of trauma or overuse. The patient has a history of pruritic, lichenified scaly patches on the volar aspect of the hands, as well as the dorsum and proximal interphalangeal joints of the feet. The nails of the hands and feet are thickened and white in color.

5. Appropriate initial evaluation of this patient would include
 - A. radiography.
 - B. an excisional biopsy.
 - C. a rheumatoid profile.
 - D. a culture and sensitivity test.

6. Appropriate management/treatment of this patient would include
 - A. topical steroids bid.
 - B. methotrexate 4 mg qid.
 - C. prednisone 25 mg daily.
 - D. resection arthroplasty.

7. A healthy 24-year-old female patient has undergone an open reduction with internal fixation of a Lisfranc's fracture, under general anesthesia. On the first postoperative day, she develops a temperature of 101.5°F. The most likely cause is
 - A. pneumonia.
 - B. pulmonary embolus.
 - C. atelectasis.
 - D. malignant hyperthermia.

8. A patient presents with a suspicious mass on the plantar aspect of the foot. The mass is large and is below the subcutaneous tissue layers. The mass is hard and is attached to the deep structures. It is painful on ambulation. All of the following would be beneficial in helping to evaluate this lesion EXCEPT
 - A. palpation.
 - B. biopsy.
 - C. radiography.
 - D. aspiration of the lesion.

9. Appropriate treatment for the condition shown on the radiograph would include
 - A. closed reduction and pinning.
 - B. weight-bearing casting.
 - C. bone biopsy.
 - D. steroid injection.



10. A 72-year-old female patient with diabetes presents to the emergency treatment center with a deep plantar space infection and ascending cellulites of the left foot. The patient is in decompensated congestive heart failure. Her vital signs are: blood pressure 160/90 mm Hg; temperature 101.9°F; pulse 95; and respirations 22. Which of the following is the appropriate method of anesthesia for this patient?
 - A. Local.
 - B. Spinal.
 - C. General.
 - D. Bier block.

Answers to sample questions: 1-B; 2-A; 3-A; 4-B; 5-D; 6-A; 7-C; 8-D; 9-A; 10-B.

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*Denotes State Boards that participate in the Part III program

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 335 Merchant Street, Room 301
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Idaho
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 1109 Main Street, Suite 220
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 Division of Professional Regulation
 Podiatric Medical Licensing Board
 320 West Washington Street, Third Floor
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www.idfpr.com/dpr/WHO/pod.asp

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 Continental Testing Services
 Missy Kwak
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 Fax: 708.354.0324
www.continentaltesting.net

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