

# 2020 Internal Medicine In-Training Examination – Remote Proctoring and Testing Option in Response to COVID-19

Webinar – Wednesday, August 5, 2020

American College of Physicians, Philadelphia, PA

National Board of Medical Examiners, Philadelphia PA

# 2020 IM-ITE Administration Testing Window

## 2020 Testing Window

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

August 20 to September 9, 2020,  
excluding September 7 (Labor Day)

## Remote Proctoring/Testing: How We Got Here

- The unanticipated and swift emergence of COVID-19 has necessitated social distancing in test centers globally.
- To help address the immediate need to deliver web-based exams remotely, ACP and NBME has developed an INTERIM solution for 2020 to allow the use of third-party conferencing software to monitor examinees remotely *while we continue to explore a more robust and long-term option for remote proctoring.*
- While not an ideal substitute for in-person proctoring, this interim solution will allow proctors to remotely observe residents during test administration with readily available video conferencing apps.
- Best and only alternative option available for development and deployment by the August 2020 IM-ITE admin.

# IM-ITE Testing in the Age of COVID

## Socially-Distanced Testing and Exam Monitoring

- ACP will offer the option of off-site testing/exam monitoring (proctoring) through 3<sup>rd</sup>-party webinar software:



- Traditional testing (testing room with in-person proctor) remains available.



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## Multiple Options to Afford Increased Flexibility

- In-person testing over many days of the 20-day testing window to enable fewer residents to test per day to better accommodate social distancing
- In person-testing within multiple rooms to enable fewer residents to test per room to better accommodate social distancing
- Remote proctoring/testing option (proctor monitors examinees on their laptops via third-party conferencing software)
- Hybrid option, with some examinees testing in-person with in-person proctor and some examinees with remote proctoring and testing

# How Will Socially Distanced Exam Monitoring/Testing Work?

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Chief proctors will execute 3rd-party Webinar software that runs separately from and simultaneous to the Chief Proctor Resource site

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The Secure Browser itself will remain unchanged

Examinees will execute 3rd-party Webinar software that runs separately from and simultaneous to the secure browser application required to launch the test

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Chief Proctors are encouraged to have mock runs with other proctors and IT staff to practice using the web conference software with the Chief Proctor Resource site  
AND

Chief Proctors are encouraged to have practice runs monitoring residents

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No more than 25 examinees recommended per screen; limits vary by Webinar software application

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Remote proctoring will be conducted by programs using the “honor system”

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NBME will still be available 24/7 to manage technical issues

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Will require more one-on-one communication between residents and proctors and/or the program’s IT staff when technical issues occur

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# NBME Experience With This Approach So Far

**+82,000** exams administered via web conferencing at over **225** institutions for Subject Exams and In-Training exams

- American College of Rheumatology (**ACR**)
- American Society of Hematology (**ASH**)
- American Society of Nephrology (**ASN**).

Findings of Clinical Science Subject Exam performance data:

- No consistent score differences were associated with proctor setting
- Effect sizes for proctoring setting were generally very small, indicating no meaningful difference in performance

Continuing psychometric analyses as a routine part of quality assurance

- Committed to monitoring the effects of remote administration and proctoring on scores and testing experiences

# The 2020 Remote Proctoring Solution: Benefits, Limitations, & Considerations

# Remote Testing – Is It For My Program?

- When should I consider remote testing?

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If there is not enough space in my institution to socially distance examinees/proctors while testing

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If I would prefer not to have any of my examinees on site (in person) while testing

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If I would like to have some examinees test remotely and some on site (in person) while testing

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If my institution has or will have access to Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Webex

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Proctor has working knowledge of using Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Webex

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If I am comfortable interpreting the 2020 scores in the context of the remote proctoring protocols and environment requiring the honor system

## Remote Proctoring Solution: Benefits



Offers ability to use existing and readily available video conferencing applications to facilitate remote proctoring and accommodate social distancing



Eliminates the need for advance scheduling of institutional testing rooms, providing more scheduling flexibility



Allows programs to continue assessment of residents' learning progress and identification of learning needs during this unprecedented pandemic

# Remote Proctoring Solution: Limitations



Does NOT offer a single application that combines the Chief Proctor's Resource Site application with an integrated remote proctoring solution

Requires proctor to navigate between two applications to view examinees and use proctoring software to monitor testing progress  
Requires examinees to have video conferencing application running in the background, simultaneous to secure browser software (exam deployment app)



Does NOT offer a proctoring "service" administered by a third-party

Proctor must be secured by the Program



Limits number of examinees that can be monitored via viewable screen

No more than 25 recommended

# Remote Proctoring Solution: Security Considerations

- Because the swift onset of COVID-19 has not allowed sufficient time to develop integrated, high-security remote proctoring tools, the 2020 remote option is less secure than in-person monitoring.
- Camera allows examinee to “scan” the room, but this approach does not equal security level of in-person proctoring/testing environment.
- For this administration, educators should interpret individual resident performance and comparison of 2020 scores to those of previous administrations within this context.
- The integrity of the administrations relies on the honor system and codes of conduct of the educational institution.

# Why Is It Reasonable to Rely on the Honor System for 2020 IM-ITE Remote Testing?

## What the IM-ITE IS NOT



A qualifying or certifying instrument.



A metric for determining promotion, eligibility for the ABIM Certification Exam, or qualification for post-residency fellowship training.



A high-stakes exam

## What the IM-ITE IS

- A self-assessment tool for to identify learning gaps, compare residence peer performance, and to help inform career choices.
- A tool enabling program directors to provide educational counseling to residents, develop curricula, and plan curricular changes.

# Examinee's Expanded Role in Remote Proctoring and Testing

Performs Workstation Certification Process; consults with Proctor or the residency program's technical support person as needed

Has cell phone available during testing to communicate with proctor and tech staff to troubleshoot technical issues

Disables recording apps, as necessary, with proctor/Tech Support Assistance

# 2020 IM-ITE

Your Questions Solicited Via Survey Monkey

July 22 – July 28, 2020



# Remote Testing Checklist: Next Steps

Testing Modality	Next Steps	Notes
In-person Only	Read Chief Proctor's Manual	Follow instructions for prior to, on, and after test day as well as trouble-shooting appendices
Remote proctoring/testing	Read the Quick Guide for Remote Proctoring (with Web Conferencing)	Understand the administrative steps involved in remote proctoring. Cross-reference to the Chief Proctor's Manual as indicated
	Read the Instructions on Using Third-Party Conferencing Applications for Remote Proctoring	Learn how to configure video conferencing settings, schedule video session, start a conference session, and view video layouts
	Read the Examinee Instructions (with Web Conferencing) and e-mail them to examinees	Understand the examinee's role in performing the Workstation Certification Utility, deploying the exam, and trouble-shooting technical issues
	Schedule a mock test session with proctors and IT staff using video conferencing software; time permitting, conduct a practice with examinees	Follow instructions in the Chief Proctor's Manual for launching a practice test
In-person and remote proctoring/testing	Read the Chief Proctor's Manual	
	Read the guides listed above; share Examinee Instructions with examinees	

# Thank you!

## More questions?

- For general information prior to the exam, contact ACP at [im-ite@acponline.org](mailto:im-ite@acponline.org).
- For technical assistance *prior to the exam*, contact NBME at 215-243-3919 or [nbmewebtest@nbme.org](mailto:nbmewebtest@nbme.org) (e.g., Workstation certification issues).
- For technical assistance *on test day*, contact NBME at 215-243-3707.