

2024 INTERNAL MEDICINE IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION®

Performance Interpretation Guidelines

Performance Report: The performance report contains for each examinee:

1. A total test percent correct score, PGY level, and percentile rank within PGY level;
 2. Percentages of correctly answered items and percentiles in each content area; and
 3. A list of educational objectives of items that were answered incorrectly.
- The total test percent correct score is the percentage of scored items answered correctly on the examination. The percentile rank reflects the percentage of candidates in your PGY group who took the examination and scored lower than you on the total test. For example, if you were in the PGY2 level of training and had a percentile rank of 65, then 65% of the PGY2 candidates had scores lower than yours.
 - Content area percentages are based on the number of scored items answered correctly in each content area. The High Value Care content area includes questions related to the overuse and misuse of tests and treatments that do not improve outcomes and may cause harm. These questions exist in other content areas. Also given is the mean percentage attained by candidates at your PGY level and the standard deviation around that mean, and the percentile rank which reflects the percentage of candidates in your PGY group who took the examination and scored lower than you in each content area. Thus, you can compare your performance in each of the content areas to that of all candidates in your PGY group.

Note: If your PGY designation is other than PGY1, PGY2, PGY3, or PGY4, or your field of study is not Internal Medicine, your percentile rank will be based on the PGY2 group.

Test Development: This examination was developed to aid residents and program directors in evaluating knowledge during residency training while there is time for corrective action. Questions were written at the level of proficiency expected of second-year residents. The content outline was developed by a committee of physicians, representing a wide spectrum of residency training programs in community and university hospitals. The questions were drafted according to well-established principles and techniques of examination construction and were subjected to careful review and revisions by the committee.

Skills Not Assessed by the Test: Many important competencies are not assessed by this examination, such as attitudes, relationships with patients, problem-solving abilities in a clinical setting, technical skills, teaching skills, and ability to interact effectively with other members of a health care team. These skills may be assessed by other means.

Appropriate Use of Scores: This examination is intended solely as an educational program. The scores may be useful in advising residents of their current progress in learning internal medicine and in designing remedial interventions for individuals or groups of residents. These scores are **NOT** intended to influence promotion or selection decisions. The scores should **NOT** be used in letters of recommendation or in curriculum vitae (CV).

Standard Error of Measurement and Score Precision: The SEM is an estimate of the degree of uncertainty (imprecision) in scores, or how much variability could be expected in an examinee's score. Thus, the smaller the SEM, the more precise the estimation of the examinee's true proficiency level. For this examination, the SEM of percent correct scores is 3.

Using the SEM, it is possible to calculate a score interval that indicates how much a score may change if the examinee tested again (using a different set of items covering the same content and assuming no learning or forgetting). For example, if an examinee's true proficiency level is 70 and the SEM for the scores is 3, the percent correct score achieved will fall between 67 and 73 ($70 - 3$ and $70 + 3$) two times out of three.