



ABNS and COVID-19

ABNS is committed to doing our part to reduce the risk of community spread. These are unprecedented times; let us all be kind to each other and remember part of the ABNS mission is to “..... serve the cause of public health”.

The ABNS is committed to the health and well-being of everyone we work with. It is because of that commitment that we have made some unusual and difficult decisions.

FAQS specific to the 2020 ABNS Primary Exam

1) Why was the 2020 Primary Exam postponed from the original date of March 13th?

The ABNS made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Primary Exam as a response to the COVID-19 virus and our responsibility to “flatten the curve”. The Hippocratic Oath states “I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.”

2) Why not let the programs who could administer the exam do so and those who could not reschedule for another day?

First and foremost, the safety and well-being of all humans is the highest priority. The security and integrity of the exam is important. Each year the ABNS prepares a unique version of the Primary exam. Additionally, the NBME had been monitoring the situation leading up to the 3/13 admin and they warned of the psychometric, technical, and logistical difficulties of maintaining the original administration date during such an uncertain time.

3) What is the date for the rescheduled 2020 ABNS Primary Exam?

The ABNS has identified Friday, May 15th as the date for the 2020 Primary Exam, although that is subject to change based on the status of the COVID-19 virus, which we will continue to monitor closely. This date was chosen specifically to ensure we have the exam scores back in time for people who are graduating or moving into their chief year. We encourage you to check the ABNS website on a regular basis for updates.

With over one month to prepare for testing, we encourage program directors to do everything possible such that residents needing to take the primary exam can proceed within the guidelines of the CDC and WHO that will then be in effect specific to COVID-19.

American Board of Neurological Surgery – COVID-19 RESPONSE

4) Can I take the Primary Exam for credit rather than self-assessment this year?

Yes, ABNS can modify registrations, however, the difference in cost (\$500) must be paid prior to the change being made. Please e-mail abns@abns.org to request the change.

5) Can I still take the Primary Exam for self-assessment?

Taking the ABNS Primary exam for self-assessment is often used by programs to gauge the performance of the resident. Although we believe taking the exam for self-assessment is best practice, it is not considered mandatory. Therefore, those who are scheduled to take the 2020 ABNS Primary Exam for self-assessment may choose to wait until next year to take the exam. The ABNS will issue refunds to anyone who elects not to take the exam. Please e-mail abns@abns.org to request a refund. Your registration will be withdrawn at that time. No refunds will be issued without written request.

Principles

ABNS Certification is the gold standard that promotes and recognizes excellence, not minimum standards.

ABNS Certification is voluntary.

ABNS Certification should be challenging and meaningful.

All of us are professionals and colleagues, let us honor each other accordingly.

It is with our collective leadership that we will get through this.....together.

Let's be kind. Offer grace. Lend a hand (washed). Do our part.