



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for NBME® Self-Assessments: Free Exam Forms and Answer Explanations

Updated July 24, 2020

What do all the acronyms stand for?

- **CBSSA:** Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (*Correlates to Step 1 content*)
- **CCSSA:** Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessment (*Correlates to Step 2 Clinical Knowledge content*)
- **CCMSA:** Comprehensive Clinical Medicine Self-Assessment (*Correlates to Step 3 content*)
- **Step 2 CK:** Step 2 Clinical Knowledge of the United States Medical Licensing Exam®
- **USMLE®:** United States Medical Licensing Exam®

Which self-assessments is NBME offering for free?

Beginning on April 3, 2020, NBME will offer the following free self-assessments:

- CBSSA form 13
- CBSSA form 15
- CBSSA form 16
- CBSSA form 17
- CBSSA form 19
- CCSSA form 7
- CCMSA form 5

Is NBME offering free self-assessments to prepare for Subject Exams?

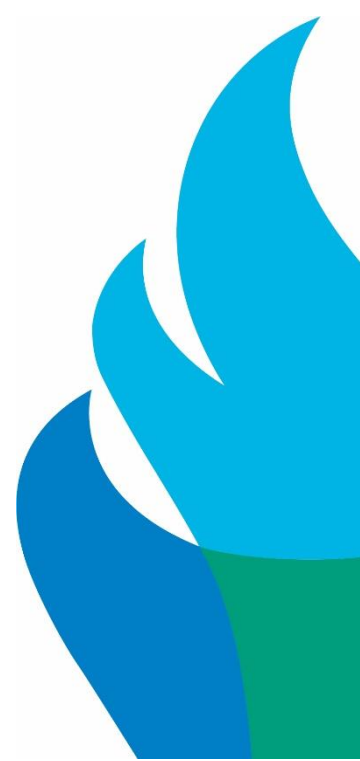
At this time, NBME Clinical Science Mastery Series Self-Assessments require a fee.

How do I access the free self-assessments?

- Go to the **MyNBME** website: www.MyNBME.org. Use the latest version of **Chrome**, **Edge**, or **Firefox** for the best online experience.
- Enter your log-in information on the **MyNBME** sign-in screen.
- If this is the first time you're logging in to the site, click **First Time User** to set up an account in the system.
- On the **Home page**, use the **Product Search** to find the self-assessment you are looking for.
- Click on the **name of the product**, and select any form listed "FREE"
- Choose your preferred **pacing mode** (standard or self-paced).
- Click **Add to Cart**; follow the on-screen prompts to complete the order.

Can I order more than one free self-assessment at a time?

Yes, you can put multiple free self-assessments in your shopping cart on MyNBME. Once you complete the order, you will have 90 days to start and complete the self-assessments. This is the same access period provided with the purchased self-assessments.



How much time will I have to complete my free self-assessment?

After your order is placed, you will have 90 days to complete your free self-assessment.

How long will the free self-assessments be available?

The free self-assessments are available from **April 3, 2020** through **September 30, 2020**. You will have 90 days to complete your free self-assessment after you place your order. For example, if you order your free self-assessment on September 30, 2020, you will have until December 29, 2020 to complete the assessment.

Are the free CBSSA forms new?

No, the free CBSSA forms are not new. In 2019, these test forms were made unavailable when we released new forms. However, the forms are being re-activated to help students prepare while social distancing and any delay in USMLE testing. While we cannot provide new exam forms quickly enough to meet this demand, we are able to re-activate these forms without delays.

Why are you offering discontinued CBSSA exam forms for free and not new forms?

We are re-activating these test forms and offering them for free to respond to the needs expressed by students and faculty that students could use additional CBSSA forms to prepare for USMLE testing. While we cannot provide new test forms quickly enough to meet this need, we re-activated these forms without any delays.

Will any questions on the free CBSSA forms be the same as those on exam forms available for purchase?

The free exam forms (13, 15, 16, 17, and 19) have some of the same questions as exam forms 20, 21, and 22 (for purchase). The free exam forms (13, 15, 16, 17, and 19) do not share questions with each other, and the exam forms for purchase (18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24) do not share questions with each other.

Why do the score reports for the free forms look different from the score reports for the test forms available for purchase?

On January 23, 2020, new score reports were implemented for CBSSA exam forms 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 and CCSSA forms 5, 6, 7. Because the free exam forms were discontinued in 2019, updates were not made to those score reports. You can learn about the differences in the score reports [here](#).

Will expiration dates for already purchased exam forms be extended during the COVID-19 crisis?

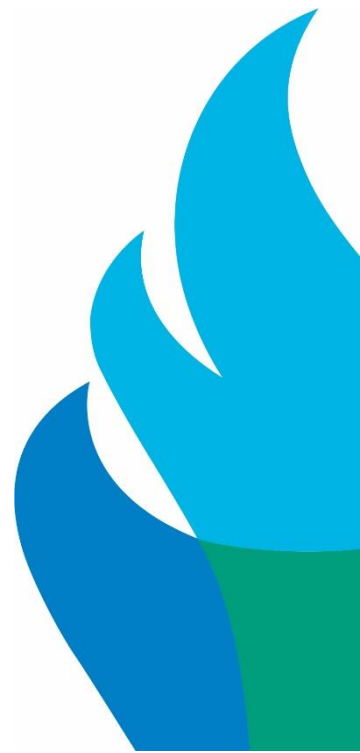
Yes, you can have the expiration date for your already purchased exam forms extended by contacting support@nbme.org. Please contact us when your purchased exam forms are close to expiring so that support staff can arrange extensions.

Can I compare longitudinal feedback from the free exam forms with the exam forms available for purchase?

No, longitudinal feedback cannot be compared between the free forms and the exam forms available for purchase because the score reports are not the same.

What is the difference between the old CBSSA score reports and the new ones?

You can learn about the differences in the score reports [here](#).



Will the free self-assessments have answer explanations?

No, the free self-assessments will not have answer explanations. At this time, the self-assessments that contain answer explanations are Medicine exam forms 3, 4, 5, & 6 and Surgery forms 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Clinical Mastery Series. You can look forward to all self-assessments eventually containing answer explanations over the next 18 months.

Will more self-assessments eventually contain answer explanations?

You can look forward to all self-assessments eventually containing answer explanations over the next 18 months.

How do I access the answer explanations?

You can view the answer explanations immediately after you complete your self-assessment. If you exit the assessment, you can log on to MyNBME and view the answer explanations in the interactive score report by clicking View Your Results Interactively. Regardless of whether you choose to review the answer explanations immediately following the self-assessment or later by logging on to MyNBME, there are 3 options:

1. **Review All Items** – This will allow you to review the question, answer options, your answer selection, and answer explanations for each question in the order in which it was seen on the self-assessment.
2. **Review Incorrect Items** – This option will allow you to only review answer explanations for the questions that you answered incorrectly.
3. **Detailed Analysis by Content** – This provides the ability to view questions and answer explanations by content category.

Will there be a change in price with the addition of the answer explanations?

No, the cost of the Medicine and Surgery exam forms (as they become available throughout June and July) will remain at \$20.

I purchased and/or completed Medicine forms 3/4 prior to June 29, 2020. Will I be able to access the answer explanations?

Answer explanations will only be available for Medicine forms 3 and 4 if they were purchased after July 18, 2019.

I purchased and/or completed Medicine forms 5/6 prior to April 2, 2020. Will I be able to get the answer explanations?

Answer explanations will only be available for Medicine form 5 if it was purchased after July 18, 2019. Answer explanations will only be available for Medicine form 6 if it was purchased after December 12, 2019.

I purchased and/or completed Surgery forms 3, 4, 5 and 6 prior to July 14, 2020. Will I be able to access the answer explanations?

Answer explanations will only be available for Surgery forms 3, 4, 5 and 6 if they were purchased after July 18, 2019.

Have questions or other feedback about NBME® Self-Assessments?

Contact us at support@nbme.org, on Twitter [@NBMENow](https://twitter.com/NBMENow), or on Facebook [@NBME.org](https://www.facebook.com/NBME.org).

