



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

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Glossary of Terms:

- **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 is not offering free Clinical Science Mastery Series Self-Assessments.

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 will be 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.

Will the free Self-Assessments have answer explanations?

No, the free Self-Assessments will not have answer explanations. At this time, the only Self-Assessments that have answer explanations are Medicine form 5 and Medicine form 6.

Will more Self-Assessments eventually contain answer explanations?

We anticipate that Medicine Forms 3 and 4 will be released with answer explanations on June 29, 2020; Surgery forms 3 and 4 will be released with answer explanations on July 13, 2020; and Surgery forms 5 and 6 will be released with answer explanations on July 27, 2020. You can look forward to all Self-Assessments eventually containing answer explanations over the next 18 months.

Are the free CBSSA forms new?

No, the free CBSSA forms are not new. These forms were discontinued in 2019 when we released new forms. The forms are being re-activated to help address concerns expressed by students and faculty that students could use additional CBSSA forms due to the temporary suspension in USMLE testing. While we cannot provide new forms quickly enough to meet this demand, we are able to re-activate these forms without delays.

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

We are re-activating these forms and offering them for free to help address concerns expressed by students and faculty that students could use additional CBSSA forms due to the temporary suspension in USMLE testing. While we cannot provide new 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 forms available for purchase?

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

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

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

You can learn about the differences in the score reports through NBME's resources [here](#).



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer explanations will be provided for Medicine Form 5 regardless of when it was purchased or completed. Answer explanations will only be provided for Medicine Form 6 purchased after December 12, 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).

