

2011 SLEEP MEDICINE CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION

Description of the Score Report

The purpose of the Score Report is to provide feedback about your performance on the 2011 Sleep Medicine Certification Examination. The Score Report summarizes your performance on the examination as a whole and provides feedback in several medical content areas to aid you in identifying areas of relative strength and weakness.

I. Overall Performance

The pass-fail decision is based on your performance on the entire examination. Overall examination performance is reported on a standardized score scale with a range of 200 to 800. The mean standardized score for first-time takers on the base test form for this examination is 500 and the standard deviation is 100. For example, a score of 600 is one standard deviation above the mean. Candidates with equal ability will achieve the same standardized score.

In order to pass the examination, your overall score must equal or exceed the standardized passing score of 440. Table 1 provides the pass rates for candidates taking the exam for the first time, on repeat attempts, and for the total group.

Table 1
2011 Sleep Medicine Certification Examination Pass Rates

	<u>Number of Candidates</u>	<u>Percent Passing</u>
First-takers	2457	65%
Repeaters	456	50%
Total Group	2913	62%

Standardized Passing Score:

The standardized passing score is based on an absolute standard developed by the Sleep Medicine Test and Policy Committee and approved by each participating Board administering the exam. A three-step process was used to determine the score. First, standard-setting groups discussed the characteristics of minimally qualified or borderline candidates. Next, each item on the test was reviewed and

group members identified the expected performance of borderline candidates for each item. Finally, these judgments were systematically combined to derive a passing score for all examinees on the standardized score scale.

II. Medical Content Area Scores

Questions in the examination are grouped according to content areas. The Score Report provides the number of questions for each content area along with your percent correct score. Pass-fail standards have *not* been established for content scores. These scores are reported for your interest only.

Deciles are reported to provide feedback regarding how your score ranked relative to all candidates taking the examination for the first time. Deciles range from 1 to 10. A score associated with a decile of 10 ranks with the highest scoring takers (i.e., top 10%) and a decile of 1 indicates that a score ranks with those of the lowest scoring takers (i.e., bottom 10%).

Although a decile for your overall score does not appear on the score report, you can find this value using the table below.

<u>Decile</u>	<u>Overall Standardized Score</u>
1	200 - 330
2	331 - 385
3	386 - 422
4	423 - 453
5	454 - 479
6	480 - 501
7	502 - 522
8	523 - 549
9	550 - 592
10	593 - 800

The content area scores are calculated from fewer questions than the overall score. Therefore, the reproducibility of each content score is lower than that of the overall score. The lower reproducibility limits the degree to which you can generalize from performance on a content area to your specific strengths and weaknesses. For these reasons, you should be

cautious in interpreting the content area scores that appear in your report. The precision of these scores is described in the following section.

Precision of Medical Content Area Scores:

The standard error of measurement (SEM) is an estimate of the precision of a score. The SEM of each content area score is presented in Table 2.

Table 2
2011 Sleep Medicine Certification
Examination
Standard Errors of Measurement

<u>Medical Content Areas:</u>	<u>Standard Error of Measurement</u>
Normal Sleep and Variants	8%
Organ System Physiology in Sleep	13%
Sleep Evaluation	7%
Pharmacology	11%
Disorders Related to Sleep-Wake Timing	12%
Insomnia	9%
Hypersomnolence Unrelated to Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders	11%
Parasomnias	13%
Sleep-Related Movement Disorders	11%
Sleep-Related Breathing Disorders	7%
Sleep in Other Disorders and Considerations Unique to Childhood	12%

The magnitude of the SEM depends on several factors, including the number of questions in the content area. If you were to repeat the same examination, without additional study, your content area scores might be higher or lower than they were on this examination. Adding and subtracting the SEM from your score will produce a range (confidence interval) within which your performance would fall 68 times if you repeated the same examination 100 times. For example, if your Normal Sleep and Variants

score is 74% and the SEM is 8%, you have substantial assurance that on retesting, without additional learning, you would score between 66% and 82% (i.e., 74% ± 8%).

III. Additional Information

Examination Rescoring:

It is very unlikely that an error occurred in retrieving your answers from the computer or scoring your exam. The Board has taken all the appropriate steps to verify the accuracy of results for every examinee. However, after thoroughly reviewing your results, you may request a rescore for a fee of \$250.00.

Rescoring involves first a review of a computer log of your keyboard and mouse actions for the entire examination. Next, the last answer for each question is identified and compared to the answer of record in the ABIM system (the answer that was scored) for that question. If any discrepancy is found between the two sets of answers, appropriate action will be taken to resolve the discrepancy. If answers from both sources are identical, you will be notified that no error was found. No additional information will be provided.

If you would like to have your examination rescored, please put your request in writing. All requests must be received within six months of the results' mailing date. Include your name, ABIM ID, the examination to be rescored, and a check for \$250.00 payable to the American Board of Internal Medicine. Send to:

Rescore Request
 American Board of Internal Medicine
 510 Walnut Street, Suite 1700
 Philadelphia, PA 19106-3699

Results of the rescore will be mailed to you within eight weeks of receiving your request.

Obtaining Copies of Your Score Report:

Copies of your Score Report will be maintained for two years from the date they were first mailed. During this period, copies are available to you upon your written request.