

CCEP Guidelines

The ACGME has outlined the 6 core competencies as a framework by which residency training programs should train and evaluate their house officers. Medical knowledge is among the 6 core competencies. All residency training programs must attest that each graduate meets minimal standards in each of the 6 core competencies. The University of Texas-Houston Internal Medicine Residency Program has initiated several initiatives aimed at improving the core clinical knowledge of our trainees.

The acquisition of medical knowledge during residency is a personal responsibility. A robust outside effort is required by each individual to successfully attain the necessary knowledge base. The Core Curriculum Education Program (CCEP) was begun in 2008 in response to the need of addressing a standardized “curriculum” for our trainees. The CCEP consists of a series of questions and answers based on content from landmark trials and relevant articles from PubMed and material from MKSAP and MedStudy.

Only Categorical Medicine Interns and Residents are required to take the test. Preliminary, Transitional and Anesthesia Interns are excused. Medicine-Pediatrics residents are expected to take the quiz only during months when on Medicine Rotations.

The quizzes can be completed in any order with a different subject being chosen every month. CCEP Quiz Handouts are located on BlackBoard under CCEP Quiz. No CCEP will be offered during the month of October as all residents will be taking the Internal Medicine In-Training Exam. Since the months of July and December can be busy for various reasons, residents will be able to choose whether they will have a CCEP in one month or the other (ie. if you took a CCEP in July, you’ll be exempt from one in December). All incoming Interns will be excused from taking a quiz in June and July of their Intern year and will start taking the CCEP Quiz in August. Residents should take the CCEP Quiz that corresponds to their current rotation (i.e. if you’re on Hematology consults at Hermann, you’ll take the Hematology CCEP at the end of the month). Residents on call-months may choose to do a CCEP from one of their stronger subjects or a less detailed/lengthy CCEP Handout.

The quiz will be offered on a monthly basis following Noon Conference on **the last Tuesday** and **Thursday** of the month. Residents on Night Float or at St Luke’s must notify the Chiefs in advance as to what day they are available for the quiz.

The only time an intern or resident will be exempt from a subject area is if they scored at **least 75% correct** on that subject on their In-Training Exam (ie on your ITE breakdown your score in Pulmonary was 81% correct, **not percentile**, you would not have to take the CCEP in Pulmonary).

If a resident is exempt from a quiz per the guidelines on Blackboard (i.e. scoring >75% Correct on a section on the ITE) they **MUST** contact Dr. Politano and the Chiefs to verify the month they are choosing the exemption. Failure to do so will result in automatic failure per the guidelines below.

Failure to take a quiz on the scheduled day will result in the following:

- letter in the resident’s file
- oral examination with the resident’s Associate Program Director
- addition to the Jeopardy Call Pool for the UT Holidays.

Failure to pass the quiz with >70% correct will result in a 2nd attempt one week after the initial attempt. Failure to pass the quiz after a 2nd attempt will result in an oral examination. Failure of any oral examination will lead to a letter in the resident's file and a remediation plan will be formulated by the resident's Associate Program Director.

We understand that some residents will not be able to take a quiz on these dates/times because of their schedule (i.e. vacation). It is therefore your responsibility to inform Dr. Politano and the Chiefs *ahead of the scheduled quiz days/times*, if you will not be able to take the quiz as scheduled. Failure to do so will result in an automatic failure as the guidelines above.

Once a resident has completed a "cycle" of CCEP quizzes, they will start over and continue to target subject content where more focused attention is needed. There are several versions of each subject CCEP Quiz thereby allowing residents to take the same subject more than once. A resident who starts the CCEP Cycle in August of their intern year has the opportunity to take at least 2-3 CCEPs in each subject, with the ultimate goal of passing the Internal Medicine Boards at the end of their residency. It is to this end that the program will continue to make these quizzes mandatory.