Subspecialty In-Training Exam Transition to Internet-Based Testing

(SITE to IBT)

Suzanne K Woods, MD

Executive Vice President

Credentialing and Initial Certification

APPD Virtual Café, October 11, 2023

Objectives

- Explain the current system for the SITE administration and how this will transition to an Internet-Based Testing platform and the timeline/details for the change.
- Discuss proctor assignments and resources for programs.
- Offer suggestions for next steps at the program/institution level.


Angela
Justin
Kimberly
Jennifer
Wendy
Bobby
Sheleria
Megan
Cecilie
Yijing
Ronan
Angela
WORKSHOP
LIFE IS BETTER
in
DURHAM
north
carolina
to our home
N 39° 55'38" W 78° 53'55"
DURHAM, NC
FLOWER MARKET
work HARD
PLAY hard


Angela
Justin
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Yijing
Ronan
Angela
LIFE IS BETTER in DURHAM
WELCOME to our home
N 39° 55'38" W 78° 53'55"
DURHAM, NC

ABP and General Pediatrics ITE

- ABP administers an ITE for General Pediatrics
- IBT pilot in 2014 and 2015. Full transition to IBT in 2016
- ALL residency programs offer the ITE using IBT, ~12,000/year
- Registration by program through ABP Program Portal
- Exam is in July for 15 days
- Proctor management
- Results posted in Portal for PDs, no communication with trainee
- Considered “low stakes”, used for formative assessment/feedback

Subspecialty In-Training Exam (SITE)

- Administered in February, 15 days
- All 15 subspecialties
- Need all trainees on program roster
- Fellows register Nov 1 – Jan 11, 2024
- Portal dashboard registration view
- Exam at Prometric
- “Low stakes”
- Intended as formative feedback
- Cannot offer extensions of the testing window



SITE to IBT Pilot

- SITE to IBT (Internet-Based Testing) pilot
- February 2023
- 16 institutions, 381 trainees
- Cardiology, Child Abuse, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Rheumatology
- Needed to have at least 3 of the 4 subs
- Proctor manual, follow-up surveys

Pilot Institutions

UCLA / David Geffen SOM
Stanford University / L P C H
University of California, SD / Rady Children's Hospital
University of Colorado
McGaw / Lurie Children's Hospital
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri at Kansas City
Washington University/B-JH/SLCH Consortium Program
University of Rochester
Duke University Hospital
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Medical University of South Carolina
University of Washington SOM / Seattle Children's Hospital
Medical College of Wisconsin

Pilot Survey Comments

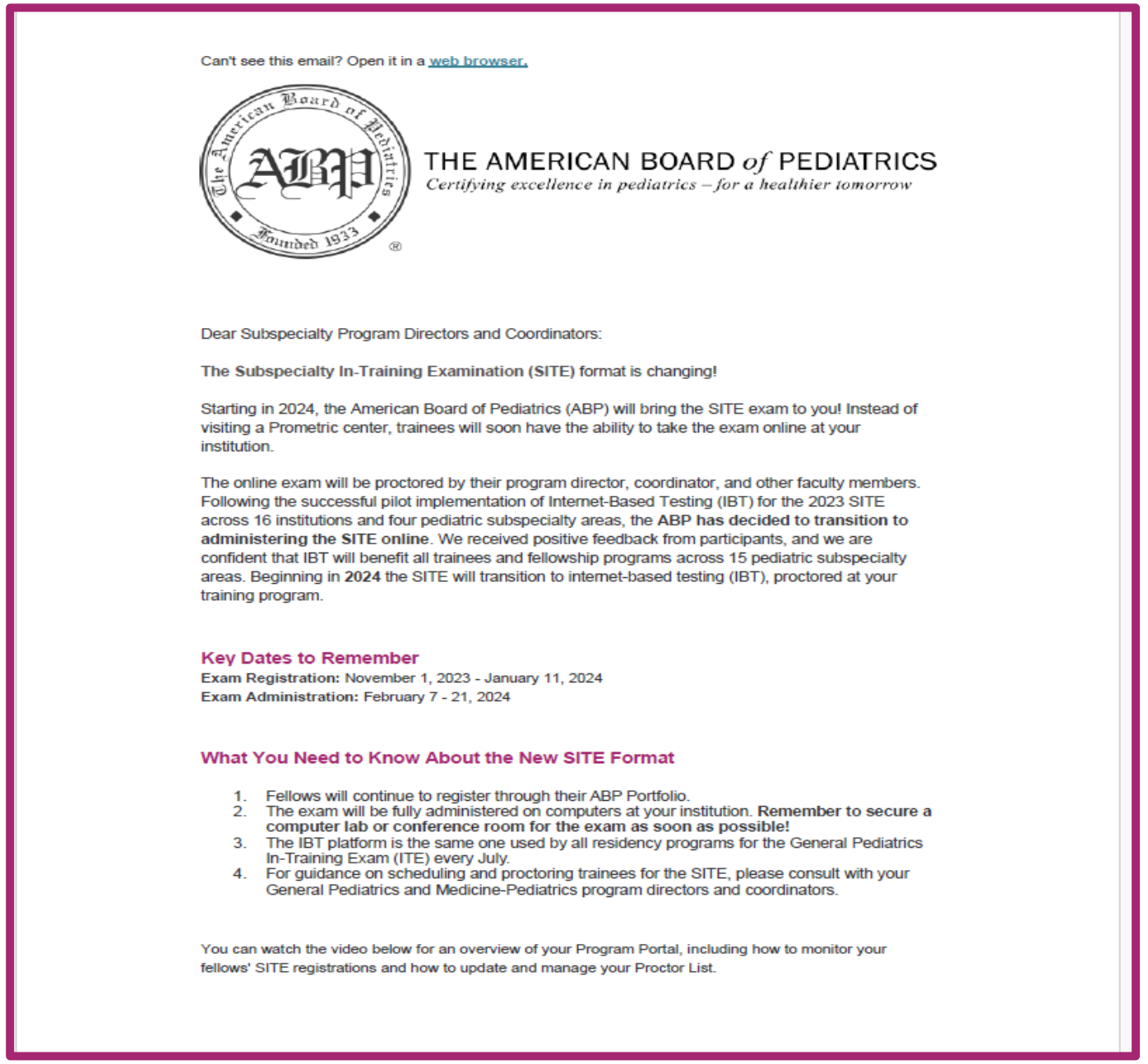
"It was a very smooth process with clear directions."
"…overwhelmingly positive response from fellows in the pilot allowing them to take their SITE on site."- Children's Mercy Hospital

"We would love for the SITE to be administered this way permanently."- Medical University of South Carolina

"Strongly in favor of moving to IBT platform." "I received nothing but positive feedback from the fellows…" - University of Colorado

Email sent to Subspecialty PDs and PCs

September 21, 2023



Can't see this email? Open it in a web browser.

THE AMERICAN BOARD *of* PEDIATRICS

Certifying excellence in pediatrics – for a healthier tomorrow

Dear Subspecialty Program Directors and Coordinators:

The Subspecialty In-Training Examination (SITE) format is changing!

Starting in 2024, the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) will bring the SITE exam to you! Instead of visiting a Prometric center, trainees will soon have the ability to take the exam online at your institution.

The online exam will be proctored by their program director, coordinator, and other faculty members. Following the successful pilot implementation of Internet-Based Testing (IBT) for the 2023 SITE across 16 institutions and four pediatric subspecialty areas, the **ABP has decided to transition to administering the SITE online**. We received positive feedback from participants, and we are confident that IBT will benefit all trainees and fellowship programs across 15 pediatric subspecialty areas. Beginning in **2024** the SITE will transition to internet-based testing (IBT), proctored at your training program.

Key Dates to Remember

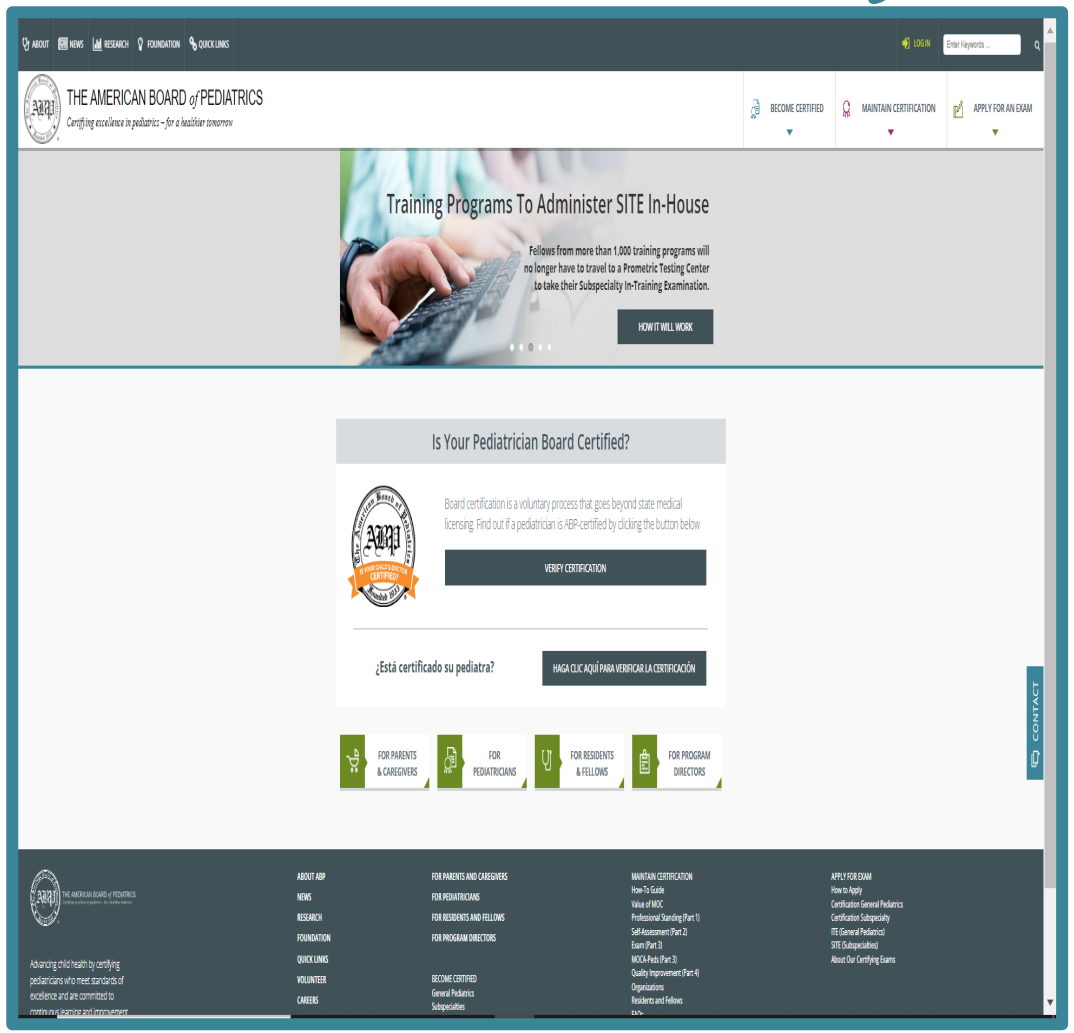
Exam Registration: November 1, 2023 - January 11, 2024
Exam Administration: February 7 - 21, 2024

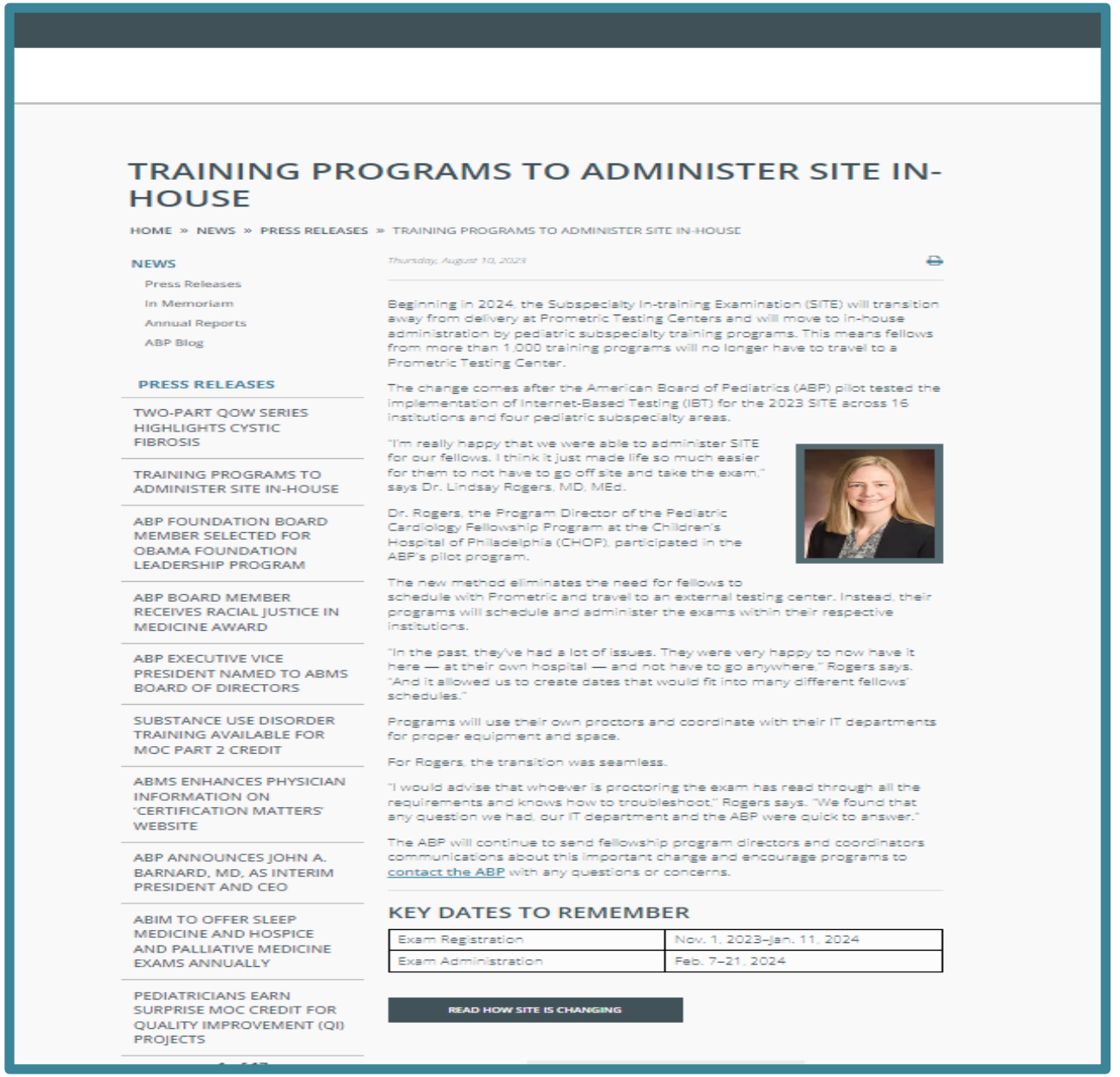
What You Need to Know About the New SITE Format

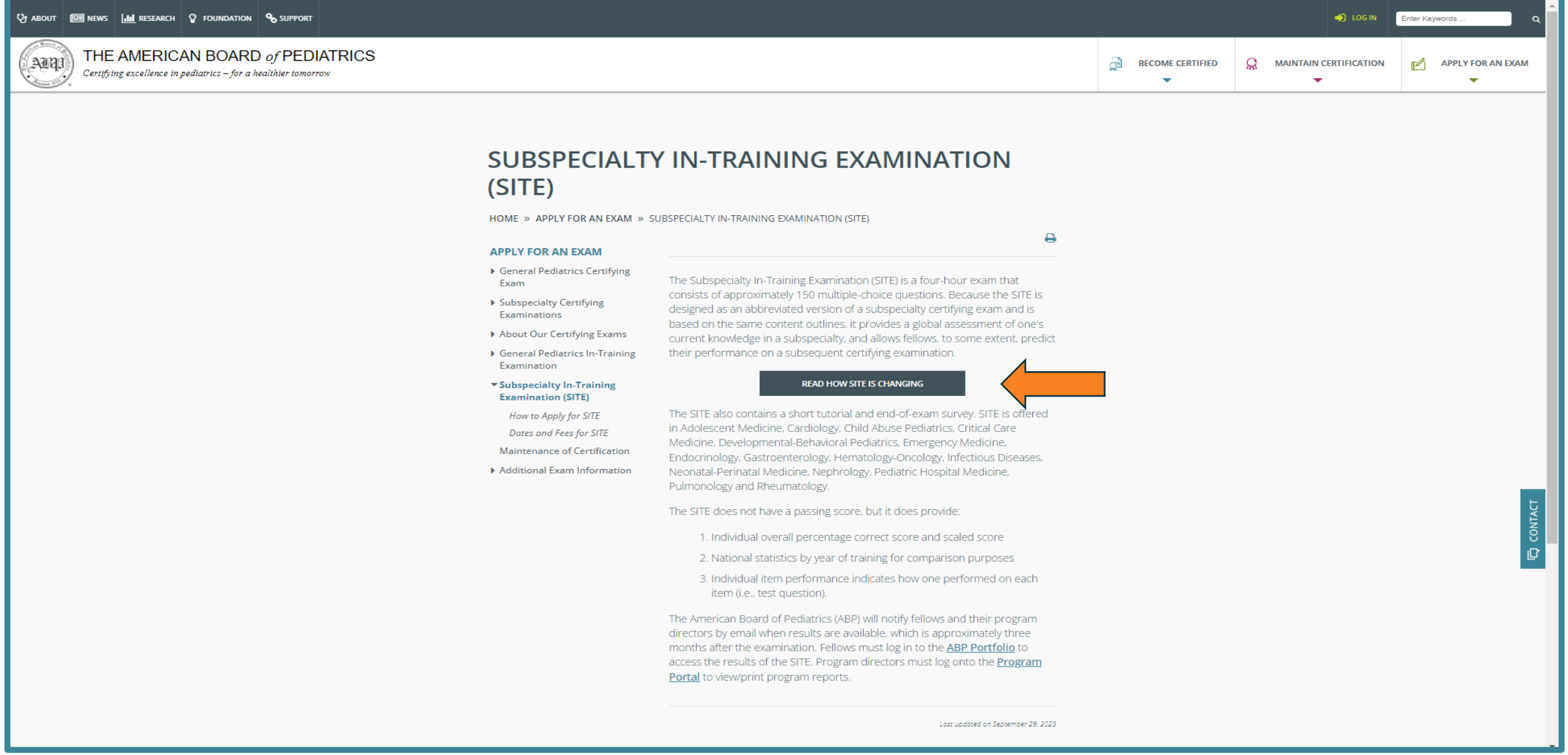
1. Fellows will continue to register through their ABP Portfolio.
2. The exam will be fully administered on computers at your institution. **Remember to secure a computer lab or conference room for the exam as soon as possible!**
3. The IBT platform is the same one used by all residency programs for the General Pediatrics In-Training Exam (ITE) every July.
4. For guidance on scheduling and proctoring trainees for the SITE, please consult with your General Pediatrics and Medicine-Pediatrics program directors and coordinators.

You can watch the video below for an overview of your Program Portal, including how to monitor your fellows' SITE registrations and how to update and manage your Proctor List.

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Training Programs To Administer SITE In-House
Fellows from more than 1,000 training programs will no longer have to travel to a Prometric Testing Center to take their Subspecialty In-Training Examination.
HOW IT WILL WORK
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Board certification is a voluntary process that goes beyond state medical licensing. Find out if a pediatrician is ABP-certified by clicking the button below
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ABMS ENHANCES PHYSICIAN INFORMATION ON 'CERTIFICATION MATTERS' WEBSITE
ABP ANNOUNCES JOHN A. BARNARD, MD, AS INTERIM PRESIDENT AND CEO
ABIM TO OFFER SLEEP MEDICINE AND HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE EXAMS ANNUALLY
PEDIATRICIANS EARN SURPRISE MOC CREDIT FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) PROJECTS
Thursday, August 10, 2023
Beginning in 2024, the Subspecialty In-training Examination (SITE) will transition away from delivery at Prometric Testing Centers and will move to in-house administration by pediatric subspecialty training programs. This means fellows from more than 1,000 training programs will no longer have to travel to a Prometric Testing Center.
The change comes after the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) pilot tested the implementation of Internet-Based Testing (IBT) for the 2023 SITE across 16 institutions and four pediatric subspecialty areas.
"I'm really happy that we were able to administer SITE for our fellows. I think it just made life so much easier for them to not have to go off site and take the exam," says Dr. Lindsay Rogers, MD, MEd.
Dr. Rogers, the Program Director of the Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship Program at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), participated in the ABP's pilot program.
The new method eliminates the need for fellows to schedule with Prometric and travel to an external testing center. Instead, their programs will schedule and administer the exams within their respective institutions.
"In the past, they've had a lot of issues. They were very happy to now have it here — at their own hospital — and not have to go anywhere," Rogers says. "And it allowed us to create dates that would fit into many different fellows' schedules."
Programs will use their own proctors and coordinate with their IT departments for proper equipment and space.
For Rogers, the transition was seamless.
"I would advise that whoever is proctoring the exam has read through all the requirements and knows how to troubleshoot," Rogers says. "We found that any question we had, our IT department and the ABP were quick to answer."
The ABP will continue to send fellowship program directors and coordinators communications about this important change and encourage programs to contact the ABP with any questions or concerns.
KEY DATES TO REMEMBER
Exam Registration
Nov. 1, 2023–Jan. 11, 2024
Exam Administration
Feb. 7–21, 2024
READ HOW SITE IS CHANGING


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How to Apply for SITE
Dates and Fees for SITE
Maintenance of Certification
Additional Exam Information
The Subspecialty In-Training Examination (SITE) is a four-hour exam that consists of approximately 150 multiple-choice questions. Because the SITE is designed as an abbreviated version of a subspecialty certifying exam and is based on the same content outlines, it provides a global assessment of one's current knowledge in a subspecialty, and allows fellows, to some extent, predict their performance on a subsequent certifying examination.
READ HOW SITE IS CHANGING
The SITE also contains a short tutorial and end-of-exam survey. SITE is offered in Adolescent Medicine, Cardiology, Child Abuse Pediatrics, Critical Care Medicine, Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology-Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Nephrology, Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Pulmonology and Rheumatology.
The SITE does not have a passing score, but it does provide:
1. Individual overall percentage correct score and scaled score
2. National statistics by year of training for comparison purposes
3. Individual item performance indicates how one performed on each item (i.e., test question).
The American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) will notify fellows and their program directors by email when results are available, which is approximately three months after the examination. Fellows must log in to the ABP Portfolio to access the results of the SITE. Program directors must log onto the Program Portal to view/print program reports.
Last updated on September 29, 2023
CONTACT

www.abp.org

SUBSPECIALTY IN-TRAINING EXAM (SITE) IS NOW DELIVERED AT TRAINING PROGRAMS!

THE LATEST UPDATE

Starting in 2024, the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) will bring the SITE exam to you! Instead of visiting a Prometric center, trainees will soon have the ability to take the exam online at your institution. The online exam will be proctored by their program director, coordinator, and other faculty members.

Following the successful pilot implementation of Internet-Based Testing (IBT) for the 2023 SITE across 16 institutions and four pediatric subspecialty areas, ABP has decided to transition to administering the SITE online. We received positive feedback from participants, and we are confident that IBT will benefit all trainees and fellowship programs across 15 pediatric subspecialty areas.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – JANUARY 11, 2024
Exam Registration

FEBRUARY 7 – 21, 2024
Exam Administration

...and remember to secure a computer lab or conference room for the exam as soon as possible!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW SITE FORMAT

1. Fellows will continue to register through their ABP Portfolio.
2. The exam will be fully administered on computers at your institution.
3. The IBT platform is the same one used by all residency programs for the General Pediatrics In-Training Exam (ITE) every July.
4. For guidance on scheduling and proctoring trainees for the SITE, please consult with your General Pediatrics and Medicine-Pediatrics program directors and coordinators.

ANY QUESTIONS? More detailed information will be released this summer. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email us at site@abpeds.org.

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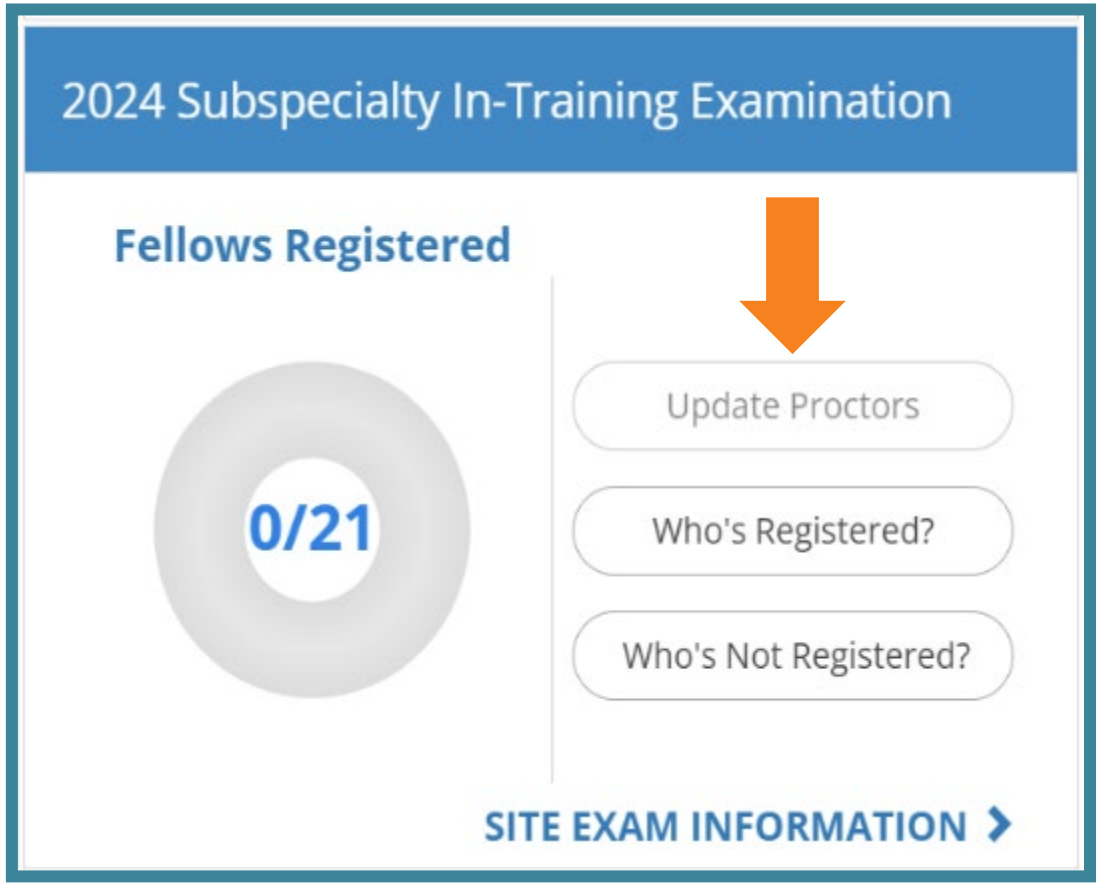
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Proctors

- The program designates the proctors – can be PDs, PCs and program faculty.

- There are no specific requirements for proctoring except – once designated, individuals attest to a proctor agreement.



Scheduling

- Exam window Feb 7-Feb 21, 2024 - no exceptions
- There is no limit to number of dates that can be scheduled within that time
  - ➢ Range 1-15 days
  - ➢ 24hours/day
- Scheduling is all completed at the program level – no reporting to ABP
- The exam generally is given over ~5 hour period and does NOT have unlimited time to complete.



Scheduling cont'd

- Sessions can include fellows from multiple subspecialities and fellows within a program can take the exam at any date within the time window – but may only sit for the exam ONCE!
- All fellows do not need to start at the same time on a given day – but caution with interruptions.
- Proctor enters credentials then the fellows login to launch the exam. Proctors receive the information, not the fellows.*
- Accommodations at the discretion of the program – but NO guarantee these will be given for the initial certification exam by ABP.

The Examination

- Approximately 150 Questions
- One section – 30 min Break – Second section
- Time for the launch/testing ~5 hours
- Proctor guide has the directions!





Program Portal tutorial

https://abpeds.wistia.com/medias/n8rw5cywmm

FAQs

1. **What is the purpose of offering the Subspecialty In-Training Examination SITE?** SITE is designed as an abbreviated version of a subspecialty certifying exam and is based on the same content outlines. It provides a global assessment of one's current knowledge in a subspecialty and allows fellows, to some extent, to predict their performance on a subsequent certifying examination.

2. **What is the format for SITE?** SITE is a four-hour, internet-based exam that consists of approximately 150 multiple-choice questions. It also contains a short tutorial, an end-of-exam survey, and a 30-minute optional break between test sections.

Action	Time Allotted
Arrive at scheduled time	
ABP Honor Code and Exam Day Agreement	Untimed; may take up to 10 minutes to complete
Tutorial	Optional; up to 10 minutes
Examination Section 1	2 hours
Break	Optional; up to 30 minutes
Examination Section 2	2 hours
Survey	Up to 15 minutes
Total Appointment Time	Approximately 5 hours

3. **When will the SITE be administered?** The SITE will be administered in an internet-based test (IBT) format throughout a 15-day testing window in February. See the exact dates and cost on our website or in the Program Portal.

4. **What staffing will be necessary to administer the SITE?** The SITE is a proctored examination. The program director or coordinator must assign all proctors in the ABP Program Portal no later than mid-January each year. The ABP must receive an attestation that the proctor has read and understands the terms of the proctor agreement. Please contact the ABP if you must add a proctor after mid-January.

5. **When can I add myself and my coordinator as proctors for the SITE?** SITE registration opens for fellows on November 1. *After* at least one fellow registers, you will be able to add proctors for your program in the Program Portal.

6. **How do the trainees pay for the exam? Does the program buy the exams ahead of time, or does each trainee pay when they sign up?** This has not changed. Each trainee pays the SITE fee in their ABP Portfolio when they register for the exam. The program does not have the ability to pay unless the program provides the trainee its institution's credit card.

7. **Is the software/platform we need to download the same for all subspecialties, or is there a separate one for each?** There is only one vendor, ITS, for all ABP subspecialty in-training exams.

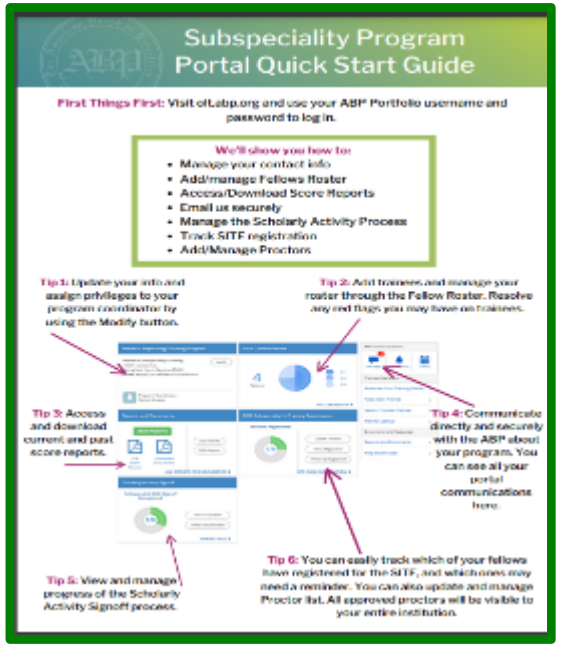
8. **Can my program administer the SITE to all trainees on a single day?** Programs that can handle online

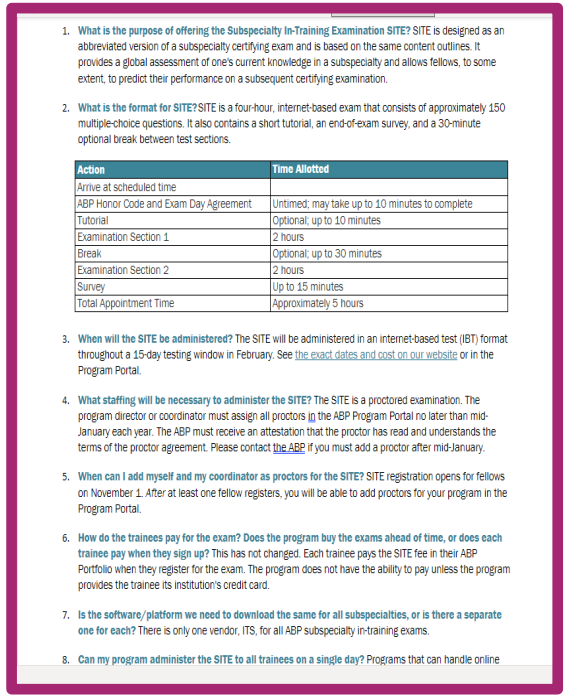
Key Items

- ✓ Fellows register the same way starting Nov 1
- ✓ No trainees will go to Prometric
- ✓ All trainees will test at their institution
- ✓ DATES: Feb 7 - 21, 2024
- ✓ Proctors - PDs, PCs, program faculty as needed
- ✓ Fellows from different subs can test at the same time in the same space
- ✓ Book room or computer lab space now
- ✓ Consider a lead person to coordinate schedules
- ✓ No accommodation requests to ABP

Resources

- ❑ Link to Program Portal video
- ❑ FAQ document
- ❑ SITE Proctor Guide





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I faced this test again and boy it wasn't easy,
Most questions were quite tough, only a few felt breezy.
I know I've gained a lot in my training years thus far,
But there's always more to know to keep me up to par.
I'll just keep doing my best to absorb all that I can,
From my mentors and attendings I'll keep learning--that's the plan.
I love being a pediatrician, a most humbling, rewarding task,
To keep growing in my knowledge and do my best, that is all I ask!

See you next year :)

Debra Zharnest MD
Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellow

November 2023

- Fellows register as usual
- Designate proctors

February 2024

- <u>ALL</u> fellows use IBT at home institutions

site@abpeds.org



