Part II (Oral) Examination Prep Tips
TRAVEL TIPS, HOW TO STUDY, AND APPROACHING THE EXAM

Follow the timeline
- ABPMR Admissibility Email (February)
- Schedule Email (date and time of your examination)
- Schedule your travel (May)
- Travel to Rochester, MN

Arrive 1 day early
We recommend arriving at least one full day prior to your exam date and time.
May is the start of severe weather season in the Midwest! Unexpected delays can cause a lot of extra stress just before the exam. Give yourself plenty of extra time.

Travel to Minnesota
Rochester, Minnesota is different than Rochester, New York! Please ensure your airline and hotel reservations are for the correct Rochester.

Review the Exam Domains
Each patient vignette during the examination will go through the same format:
- A. Data Acquisition
- B. Problem Solving
- C. Patient Management
- D. Systems-based Practice
- E. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
(For more details, see the Information for Candidates PDF on abpmr.org.)

Use abpmr.org
Review these resources on the ABPMR website:
- NEW Instructional Vignette Videos
- “What to Expect” on exam weekend video
- Part II Exam Outline
- Part II Information for Candidates PDF

Practice with Peers/Mentors
- Connect with your residency cohort and form a virtual study group
- Ask a mentor or colleague to practice with you
- Identify patient cases and take them through Domains A-E, providing rationale (why) behind your decisions for each
- Evaluate each other on completeness and accuracy of answers

Domain A
NEW for 2020, examiners will no longer be providing responses OR “this information is not available” during the exam.
Why? You don’t actually need the data — any relevant information will be provided in later domains. Domain A evaluates how accurately you target the relevant data you would need to manage the case, just as you already do with your patients.

Scoring
All domains are scored **independently.** Think of it like a golf course. Each hole on the course is scored by itself; once you finish #1, you leave it behind — it has no bearing on later holes. Then at the start of #2, you’re given all the relevant information you need for that hole: yardage, par, layout, etc.
Similarly as you proceed through the vignette, the examiner will provide all of the information you need to answer the questions within each domain.

Tips from Examiners
- **Don’t worry about the time.** Examiners are trained to move you through each case in a timely manner.
- If an examiner redirects you, **follow their lead** — sometimes candidates get frustrated, but the examiner is likely trying to get you back on track.
- **Remember, examiners have been trained NOT to provide feedback,** nonverbal or otherwise, during the exam. Lack of feedback doesn’t mean you’re doing poorly.
- **Be prepared to provide a rationale** for your answers. Examiners will ask ‘why’ to understand your thought process.
- There are no tricks, hidden information, or “gotcha” questions.