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

**SETUP**
- Follow the timeline
  - Apply for the exam
  - ABPMR Admissibility Email
  - Schedule Notice Email (date and time of your examination)
  - Take your virtual exam

**VIRTUAL EXAM SETUP**
- To take the Part II Examination, all candidates will need:
  - A laptop or desktop computer
  - Internal or external webcam
  - Headphones or earbuds with microphone
  - Fast, reliable internet connection

**REMOVE DISTRACTIONS**
- Consider sending family members, pets, roommates, or office mates away during your examination time. Unintended sounds and interruptions may affect your focus.

**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 Part II Examination page on abpmr.org)

**USE abpmr.org**
- Review these resources on the ABPMR website:
  - Instructional Vignette Videos
  - Part II Exam Day logistics information
  - Part II Exam Outline
  - Test-taking tips and performance FAQ

**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

**COMMON QUESTIONS**
- Can I take notes during the exam? Yes!
- Can I ask the examiner to repeat the question? Of course!
- Can I take a moment to collect my thoughts before responding? Absolutely.
- Can I use notes that I prepared prior to examination day? No.
- What if my internet drops? Reconnect and continue!

**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.

**ETC.**
- Although virtual, we recommend dressing in professional attire.
- Some candidates find them helpful, but remember: the ABPMR is not affiliated with any board review course; we do not develop or review their content.
- ABPMR staff is here to help. If you’re concerned about something not covered on abpmr.org or the materials you’ve received, please email or call the board office.

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**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.