

## FAQS FOR IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION (ITE), INTERNAL MEDICINE

### 1. What is ITE and why is this relevant in Singapore?

The ITE which is conducted by the American College of Physicians, is a mandatory paper-based MCQ test taken by all US doctors in the Internal medicine residency programme. It is a formative assessment which is used as a tool to evaluate trainees' medical knowledge, as well as their management of specialty related clinical problems. The objectives of the in-training exams are to:

- a. Enable residents to assess strengths & weaknesses in specialty knowledge at the time of the examination
- b. Assess residents' progress year to year
- c. Compare residents' performance with national peer groups

Regular objective assessments and feedback is required to ensure that training is relevant and focused. The regular formative assessment of our trainees through the ITE would help identify knowledge gaps and improve the quality of training for our trainees.

### 2. How do I prepare for the ITE?

No specific preparation would be required. The current breadth and depth of the trainees' knowledge in Internal medicine will be assessed.

### 3. Is the ITE mandatory?

Yes, it is mandatory for all BST trainees in Internal Medicine to take the exam once a year.

### 4. When and where will the ITE be held?

The ITE will be held annually in October. Given the large number of doctors taking the examination, there will be 2 sessions for the examination. In 2009, the sessions will be held on 10 and 17 October at the Ministry of Health (MOH).

### 5. Can I choose which session I want to sit for?

The Academy of Medicine (Singapore) which is running the ITE on behalf of the STC will liaise with you on your preferred session based on first-come basis and taking into consideration manpower needs of individual departments.

### 6. Must I register and pay any fees?

The registration will be automatically done by Joint Committee on Specialist Training (JCST) through AMS. As the registration fees for the Internal Medicine ITE will be borne by MOH for all Internal Medicine BSTs, trainees would not be required to pay any fees.

**7. What if I am unable to attempt the assessment? E.g. reservist, maternity leave**

Please inform the Internal Medicine STC in advance (in writing) and provide reasons for why you are unable to attempt the assessment **before** July.

**8. Will I know the results and what would happen if I fail?**

The American College of Physicians will release the results to which will be sent to you through the JCST. JCST/STC will forward the individual results to the current department heads and supervisors of the BSTs. This may be in November after MOPEX changeover. Your supervisor will be required to discuss your assessment outcomes with you, and formulate an action plan on how your areas of weakness could be strengthened. The STC (and the trainees themselves) will be able to monitor the trainees' progress through subsequent assessments. Though the examination is neither a qualifying nor a certifying instrument it will expose weaknesses in your training and your knowledge that may need to be corrected to enable progress to exit specialist training.

**9. What further information do I need to know?**

Please refer to the below stated website for more information:

[http://www.acponline.org/education\\_recertification/education/in\\_training/](http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/education/in_training/)

or

visit the Academy of Medicine, Singapore Website: [www.ams.edu.sg](http://www.ams.edu.sg) or contact us via email at: [main@ams.edu.sg](mailto:main@ams.edu.sg) or call Mr Edward Teo at 65937886.