

## **Updated Information Regarding ABS Exam**

December 16, 2008

In early December, the Part I (Applied Basic Science or ABS) Council met to review the ABS exams to be administered in 2009. The Council also made changes to the ABS Content Outline and Content Matrix. These changes have now been posted to the National Board's Web site.

Based on the Council Meeting, the Board would like to clarify the issue of diagnosis items on the ABS exam. Some items on the ABS exam require a candidate to make a diagnosis or determine the proper test or procedure for a patient. This is in keeping with the Board's goal of increasing the clinical relatedness of the Part I exam. Pharmacology treatment items on the ABS exam will largely be restricted to those that ask candidates to know which drugs/drug classes are indicated in the treatment of various conditions, questions that have been asked in prior years on the Part I (Basic Science) exam.

Questions that involve a comprehensive patient scenario and then ask the candidate to indicate the proper diagnosis/treatment/management will be asked on Part II (PAM) rather than on Part I (ABS).