



CORD remediation committee consultation April 11, 2019

Thank you for submitting this case. It appears that your resident is demonstrating difficulty with medical knowledge (MK) and this deficiency is most evident on standardized knowledge assessments (e.g., ABEM in-training exam). A few things to consider:

If the resident is doing “fine clinically”, is it possible that the resident has difficulty with standardized test-taking? A review of his/her standardized test scores (from before residency) may reveal challenges in this area. The resident may be willing to admit she/he struggles with exams (i.e., studying, concentrating, test-taking, etc). She/he may struggle with test anxiety, processing or executive function. A psychometric assessment of the resident by a professional may be helpful if the resident is willing/interested. ABEM will consider special testing accommodations for residents with documented test-taking issues.

Test-taking strategies

<http://som.uthscsa.edu/StudentAffairs/testtaking.asp>

Since the ITE is intended to measure MK but not intended to be used to determine eligibility for promotion, etc, is there another way in which you could assess this resident’s MK? Perhaps a simulation session with discussion could be revealing? Perhaps some challenging oral board cases with an emphasis on explaining plans of care could be helpful (ask resident to defend actions and treatment plans). While this could be helpful in assessing the resident’s MK and their ability to apply it clinically, this resident will still need to prepare for standardized exams to be successful in the board certification process. Formal board review courses are likely to be helpful in this case. There are also many question banks popular among residents (PEER, HippoEM, ALiEM, NEMBR, CORD), as well as commercially-available study programs in which the participating resident follows a study plan (with corresponding practice exam questions) while program leadership can track her/his progress.

Please follow the link below to the CORD remediation site. It contains a lot of useful information for remediating MK challenges.

<https://www.cordem.org/resources/residency-management/remediation-resources/medical-knowledge/>