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## 41 Utilization of the National EM Medical Student Exam in EM Clerkships

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**Background:** More than half of U.S. medical schools have a required EM clerkship with the majority occurring during the fourth year of medical school. Most utilize an end of rotation examination as a component of assessment. The National Emergency Medicine Fourth-Year Medical Student Exam was released to assess the Clerkship Directors in Emergency Medicine curriculum for M4 students in a required EM clerkship in July 2011.

**Objective:** To describe the utilization of the EM Medical Student Exam in EM clerkships.

**Methods:** Demographic data were collected by a survey administered to clerkship directors utilizing the EM M4 Exams at the time of exam confidentiality certification from July-October 2013.

**Results:** Twenty-five programs completed the survey. Twenty percent administer the exam to M3 students, 88% administer to M4 students, and 4% administer to PA students. Sixty-three percent of institutions administer it to students on an M4 elective rotation, 44% an M4 required rotation, 15% an M4 selective, 20% an M3 elective, and 4% an M3 selective. Forty-four percent require a minimum passing score on the exam in order to pass the clerkship. Considerable variation exists in how much the exam contributes to the final clerkship grade, ranging from “no specific percentage (must pass the exam)” to as high as 30%. The exam score contributes 21-30% of the final grade in 36% of clerkships, 11-20% in 20% of clerkships, and 1-10% in 20% of clerkships. Eight percent of clerkships only require a passing exam score, in addition to other requirements, for successful clerkship completion. A variety of teaching methods are used, including lectures, small group discussion, simulation, CDEM online modules, and assigned readings for exam preparation.

**Conclusions:** The EM M4 Exam is being administered predominantly to M4 students with significant variation in grade and rotation completion impact. A higher than expected amount of clerkships administer the exam to M3 students. These data may inform interpretation of exam performance.