

Program Performance Reports

Webinar held on July 27, 2021 at 1 p.m. CT

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WL– Dr. Wilma Larsen

CA – Cariel Apodaca

PS – Dr. Pooja Shivraj

CA: Okay, it's one o'clock, so we'll go ahead and get started out of respect for everybody's time. Good afternoon. Thank you all so much for joining us for today's conversation about the program performance reports. My name is Cariel Apodaca. I'm the Exams Manager here at the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. With me today are Dr. Wilma Larsen, our Associate Executive Director in charge of exams, and Dr. Pooja Shivraj, our Manager of Research and Psychometrics, and Pooja is actually going to lead our conversation today, so I will turn it over to her.

PS: Thank you, Cariel. Thank you all for being here today. I will be discussing the program performance reports. They actually came out on your portal this morning, so if you check that, they should be out there.

The purpose of the program performance reports, if you have looked at them, they provide an overview of the performance, the ABOG Qualifying Exam and the Certifying Exam performance. This is specific to the Certifying Exam performance of your graduates. They provide a current year for this year and a three-year trend. They also provide a distribution of program pass rates, both the current year and the three year trend, so it provides you information about where you are at as a program in comparison to the other programs. Provides your program strengths and some opportunities for growth for this current year, and then it also provides you the results of graduates from your program for the current year if they have agreed to release their score.

So I'm going to go over the program performance reports page by page to let you know what that looks like for the Certifying Exam for the Specialty and the Subspecialty Certifying Exam. What I've done is I've taken screenshots of the Specialty Certifying Exam because it looks similar for both reports, and if they are different for each report, I've taken screen drops from both and I will explain them.

One thing I do want to note is the sample on the program performance report. These only include first time takers and currently accredited ACGME programs only. If you do see pass rate differences from what is listed on our website, that is probably why because our pass rates on our website also include non-ACGME programs.

The first page on your report I know provides the limitations, the sample, that sort of thing, but if you go into the second page, it provides an overview of your performance. This is the one page that does include repeat takers, so if you do look at it, this is a screen grab from the Subspecialty Certifying Exam from oncology, but it does provide you the overall takers, the number pass, and the percent pass, and this is different from last year's program performance reports, if you do remember. We did get a request for this to be on the first page of the program performance reports. We do provide you a breakdown of how many takers you had, how many first time takers you've had, how many repeat takers you've had, both for this current year as well as a three-year trend on the exam.

For specific to your program, what does that look like for how many takers, break down by first time and repeat takers, so you get a snapshot of what that looks like, and this is specific to one particular program as an example. We also provide you your program pass rates in comparison to all programs, so if you look at it, your program is depicted in blue. All programs are depicted in orange. The graph specifically provides you the percent pass rate on the y-axis for this current year, and this is taken from the Specialty Certifying Exam, so it's the 2020 Specialty Certifying Exam. If you look at it, this just tells you for this particular program, their pass rate was 85.71, and you can look at since the sample size is not given on the graph, you can look at the table and say your program had seven first time takers, six of them passed, that's how you calculated the 85.71.

But then you also want to know how you compared to other programs for this year, and so you can see that it's a little lower. How many first time takers were there for all programs? How many passed and what that percent pass was. The reason we do first time takers is because first time takers is a more accurate reflection of pass rates for exams.

We also provide a three-year rolling average for program pass rates, and this is a 2018 through 2020 three-year program pass rates. Again, I've done a screen grab of Specialty Certifying Exam but this looks exactly the same for the Subspecialty Certifying Exam for each of the subspecialties. So essentially what this is telling you is the y-axis is a three-year percent pass rate. It's giving you a 2018 through 2020, 2017 through 2019, three years back and then another three years back, so it's a three-year rolling average.

The blue bar tells you where your program is in comparison to where all programs are at. Essentially, you're looking at it from the perspective of across the three years, your program is perhaps doing better than all programs combined. And again, since the sample size is not given, you can look down in the graph, you can look down at the table and see how many first time takers you had, how many passed, and what percent pass there is. The one thing to note here is that the 'X' here gives you the fifth percentile cut off for the three years, and the fifth percentile cut off is an ACGME standard that programs are required to meet so that they don't get cited, and that is also explained in the report.

The one thing you will note for the Subspecialty Certifying Exam is that this number here will say 2018 through 2021. It's not a four-year trend, it's just that the 2020 Subspecialty Exam got moved to 2021, and the cohorts were combined, so it was a 2018, 2019, and then a 2021. Those three years were combined into this. It says 2018 through 2021, which is essentially the three year average that was calculated, but that is the only difference for this graph.

The next thing I'll go on to is the distribution for the current year and the three-year trend. The distribution shows you where your program is in comparison to all the other programs. Essentially, what we are telling you here is if your program is at an eighty percent, you probably want to know where all the other programs are and compare how many programs scored at an eighty percent, how many scored higher than you, how many scored lower than you. This is essentially what it tells you. If this is from the Specialty, if you're looking at the distribution of program pass rates, it tells you how many programs there were that year, your pass rate at an 85.71. You can look at it at about here: 23 programs were around where you were at. There are some programs that were below you, and about 152 programs scored around there, so it's essentially telling you where your program is in comparison to the other programs The last graph essentially gave you an average of where your program was, but this one gives you a more descriptive way of looking at a distribution of it. This one gives you a frequency on this y-axis, this one gives you a percent of the total. This number is essentially telling you that

frequency, whereas you can look here and look at about 60 percent of the programs were here, and this is the pass rate.

The three-year distribution is essentially telling you the same thing, but over a period of three years. So this is the 2018 through 2020 three-year distribution of program pass rates and how you're doing across three years. Again, the Specialty and the Subspecialty look the same. The number of programs differ across time. The one thing to note here is even though the 91 here looks like it's 90 percent of the programs, you have to look at the percent total on this axis, so it's only about 35 percent of the program score at about 95 to 100 percent pass rate. So your pass rate, if it's at 95 percent, you're pretty close to that. So that's something to look at, how many programs or what percent of programs are below or above you. It just gives you a snapshot of that.

The next thing to look at is performance. The next thing we give you is a performance by content area, and this is actually something that differs by Specialty and Subspecialty given the format of the exam specifically this year. This year, the Certifying Exam was given in a computer-based format as a multiple choice question, which is why there are so many categories, the number of items administered was 200 items, and it was a multiple choice exam. So we could break this down into all of these categories. Basically, OB was broken down into a preconception/prenatal. The table below tells you what each of these categories are, but we could break it down similar to how we provide the Qualifying Exam report.

But this graph tells you where your program is and where all programs are and the percent correct by content area. If the number of questions for OB1 is 20, and for your program, the number of graduates gets a certain percent correct, you're able to see this on this graph, the min, max, mean, and median are provided in this table. And you're able to compare it across all programs. Usually you will see the orange bars range from 0 to 100 because there are a lot of programs and a lot of people get 0 correct and 100 correct as well, so the orange bars generally range from 0 to 100. The table below gives you the mean, median, min, and the max.

Here is how it differs for this Subspecialty Certifying Exam. We haven't provided this in the past. We haven't broken it down into detail, however, given that we are using a newer model for assessing or for scoring the Certifying Exam, we are able to break it down into further detail for providing this sort of performance by content area. The one thing to note is the Specialty Certifying example looks similar to this moving forward. This provides you a breakdown of each of the sections of, this is from MFM, each of the sections for MFM, along with the three case list areas for MFM. So if you can look down here, it describes what the three sections are for MFM,

along with, and I haven't copied the whole table down here, but you can look at your report and see what that is.

Given that there aren't questions you are getting correct by content area, you're being assessed on cases, what this axis tells you is a fair measure average by content area. This is explained in your report, but what a fair measure average is is it's a score that adjusts for your examiner difficulty, and your your examiner severity, and your case difficulty, how severe your examiner is, how lenient or how severe they are, as well as how difficult your case is or how easy your case is. Each candidate gets a score based off of that and this is an average, a fair average based off of that. We are now adjusting for that based on our exam, and these scores are provided for your program based on that. The score ranges from one to four, is what you were looking at, and your program is in blue, all programs are in orange, and the min, mean, median, and max are based off of that.

Here is what the strengths and opportunities look like. It's the same for the Specialty and the Subspecialty, however the categories are different again. The categories here are based on the Specialty, right now, the Specialty CE, the Specialty Certifying Exam. However, moving forward, it will be similar to the Subspecialty CE where you'll get three sections, as well as three case list categories, and I'll show you that on the next slide.

What you're essentially looking at is your median, all programs median, and a red or a green dot. The green dot tells you essentially you're fine. The red dot tells you you're 0.5 standard deviations below all programs median. And why we picked median over mean is because of the small sample sizes. We thought median would be more reflective than the mean itself. And so this is a quick way to look at where your strengths lie, and not necessarily strengths, but a way to focus on where you have opportunities for growth. Even if all of these are green, you can look at your program's median and see where you lie, where you are lower, and look at those for opportunities for growth, however, we thought the red dots may help to strengthen your program in terms of categories.

This is what the chart looks like for the Subspecialty Certifying Exam, and moving forward it would be the same for the Specialty Certifying Exam, however, the categories would be different. This is taken out of Gynecologic Oncology, and the first three are the categories for the sections. The three that say case list are the three categories for the case list. The thing to note is that the score reports that candidates get are based on the exact same categories, and what we are doing is aggregating to the program level. What you get is your median, your program's median, and how all programs compare in terms of your median. So what you can

see is it's the same thing. You get red dots and green dots, if you are 0.5 standard deviations below, how other programs are performing, you get a red dot. You have a quick way of seeing where your strengths lie, where your opportunities to grow by.

The final page shows you your candidates results breakdown by ABOG ID and candidate name, their score, and whether or not they passed or failed. You will get this for all candidates. The score, however, might be blank, like this candidates is blank right here. If your graduate did not give ABOG permission to release his or her score, their score will be blank right there. However, you will get their pass/fail results.

For both the Specialty and the Subspecialty Exam, this looks exactly the same. The score for the Subspecialty Certifying Exam will be on a scale of one to four, and moving forward, the Specialty Certifying Exam will also be on a scale of one to four. For the Specialty Certifying Exam this year, given that it was a multiple choice exam, it was on a scale of 200 through 800, a scale score similar to our Qualifying Exam.

That's all I have for now. I will take any questions coming my way about the program performance reports.

Do Program Directors get these reports only or do the Coordinators and Managers get them as well?

PS: The Program Managers get them as well. Earlier, it was only Program Managers I want to say, but now we're releasing them to Program Managers and Directors.

If my program's performance report is not listed yet, when might it be released?

CA: You probably need to email exams@abog.org with that information, and we will have to look into that because everybody should have theirs up.

Would we get this for Qualifying Exams as well?

PS: Yes, you will get this for the Qualifying Exams. The candidate results will be released mid-September, and for the Qualifying Exams, you should get it the first week of October at the latest.

-How do we access these reports?

WL: So for the Program Managers, you just log in under your program number. For the Program Directors, you just log into your portal. In both cases, the reports are in the "My Files" section, so when you go into your ABOG portal, to the right of your name is a blue box with three little lines in it. Click on that and you'll see "My Files." Click into "My Files" and you'll see Program Performance Report and you're able to view it there.

CA: I would also just like to add that if you look at under other years for the Program Managers, you'll also see prior years reports if you need those.

While we're waiting for more questions, if I could just kind of pitch to you guys, we're really hoping that these webinars are kind of what you all as Program Directors and Program Managers really would like to see from ABOG, so again, if you have any ideas for like a webinar in the future or something that you wish that we were talking about that we haven't mentioned is coming up as a webinar, please feel free to email that to communications@abog.org and we can we can see what we can do about getting that on our schedule to to give you guys more useful webinars in the future.

I'm still not seeing any questions.

WL: Okay, well if there aren't any further questions, we would like to thank you for your time, and I just like to echo what Cariel said: if you have something that you'd like us to talk about or explain or go over with you, please feel free to send that information into communications or even exams@abog.org if it's exam related.

It looks like we got a couple more questions coming in.

CA: One's a thank you and the other one is that they missed the initial part of this session and is the recording available later.

WL: And the recording will be available. We'll be sending it out through, I think we usually send it, we'll send it to all Program Managers and Program Directors, both residency and fellowship, the link to the recording. These days, most of our links are on a private YouTube channel, and we'll give you the password and you just log in and watch it.

CA: And that is everything.

WL: Alright, well we hope you all have a great day, and we hope to talk to you again in the future, so please take care.