

THORACIC SURGERY DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
2009 IN-TRAINING EXAM

General Information Sheet

The 2009 TSDA In-Training Exam (ITE) for residents in thoracic surgery will be given on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The exam will be accessible from 6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. EST. Additional exam details, including links to the exam, will be e-mailed to each candidate prior to the exam date. Please ensure that each candidate updates their CTSNet profile with a valid e-mail address. AOL accounts block the delivery of many bulk correspondence e-mails and should not be used.

Program Director Responsibility

The Program Director is responsible for administering, proctoring, and maintaining a secure environment for the examination. The exam must be administered and taken at the program training site; access from a remote site will disqualify the examinee.

TSDA relies on the Program Director for consistent, accurate information, and timely processing of order forms and payment. Please ensure the contact person from your office is aware of the information contained in this mailing and has a copy.

Fees

The fee for the In-Training Exam is \$250 per registrant. Unfortunately TSDA cannot accept credit card payment or purchase orders. The fee must be paid prior the exam date and is not refundable, except by special arrangement prior to the first date of the exam.

Internet Requirements for the Exam

- Residents and Fellows must have a CTSNet user ID and password. This is the same ID and password used for maintaining ABTS procedures logs. The ID and password can be obtained via www.ctsnet.org. Select "Reader Services" and "Register" from the menus. This should be done well before the exam.
- Residents must take the Practice Examination on-line one time between 3/1/2009 and 3/31/2009. Links to the Practice Examination will be available at www.tsda.org beginning 3/1/2009 and must be taken on the same equipment as the In-Training Exam. Residents who have not taken the Practice Exam will not be able to access the In-Training Exam.
- Pop-up blockers may interfere with the presentation of visuals for the exam. This function should be turned off during the exam. Additional technical information is available by linking to the ITE FAQ at www.tsda.org
- A high-speed Internet connection is required. A modem will not suffice. A 17-inch monitor is adequate for the 800-600 pixel resolution of the examination. Critical details will be demonstrated in the on-line Practice Examination. Each Residency Program must give the platform a trial run and check with its Information Technology (IT) Department to confirm that local computer networks and Internet connections will not be interrupted on the date of the examination and are adequate to support the exam.

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Exam Format

Questions in the examination are in random order for each resident. Questions need not be answered in order before moving to the next question. Unanswered items will be available once the other items are completed. The examinee may also re-access a question once it has been answered.

Performance Reports

After completing the In-Training Exam, residents will receive almost immediate feedback on their performance and will be able to research areas in which they want additional information. A keyword phrase report will provide links to specific subject matter information which may assist in the plan of study.

Comparative Results

Comparative results will be available to Program Directors four to six weeks following the back-up exam date of April 11, 2009 (approximately late May or early June). Percentile ranks will relate the performance of your residents to that of other residents according to year of residency.

Backup Date

The backup exam on April 11, 2009 is for those who experience significant technical difficulties during the exam on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The exam will be available ONLY for those with technical difficulties and who have called the Help Hotline during the exam on April 4 or by pre-arrangement through the TSDA office. Call the hotline number 1-877-866-4444 at any time during either examination date for technical assistance.

FAQ

A link to ITE FAQ is available at www.tsda.org. This document includes important information about the exam and its technical requirements. Please review it carefully prior to taking the exam.

For additional information, please contact TSDA Headquarters at 312-202-5854.