Accelerated Test Development: Strategies for Success

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Disclosure

Robert Brucia is a salaried employee of ABP
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Maintenance of Certification in Anesthesiology (MOCA Minute®)

- Launched in 2014 as an interactive learning and study tool to help eligible diplomates prepare for the written Maintenance of Certification exam.

- Evolved through several iterations and development processes before the launch of MOCA 2.0® in January 2016.

- MOCA Minute® online platform and mobile app are being piloted to replace the ABA’s 200-item written exam.
  - Diplomates receive a rationale, key point, and references upon answering each item.

- Items are developed using accelerated writing and review schedules, while still maintaining the rigorous review of content required of all ABA assessments.
Maintenance of Certification Assessment – Pediatrics (MOCA-Peds®)

- Pilot launched in 2017 and will run through 2018
- Being piloted to replace the ABP’s maintenance of certification 200-item proctored exam that is currently administered every 10 years
- Allows diplomates to answer items on their computer, tablet, or mobile device
- Uses ‘partner items’ and supporting material to promote learning
  - Partner items – any two items that assess the same learning objective (each diplomate receives a partner item for every item taken)
  - Rationale and supporting references are provided to diplomates for each item
  - Rationales contain information on the learning objective, item, and partner items
- Items and supporting material are developed and reviewed virtually before being reviewed and approved at an in-person SME meeting
Questions to Determine Critical Variables

- Who is the population to be assessed?
- How many items are needed on the assessment?
- Are there multiple item types on the assessment?
- Do items need to be pilot tested?
- How will the items and supporting content be developed?
- Through what platform will the items be delivered?
- When do the items need to be ready for delivery?
Who is the population to be assessed?

• Determining who will be assessed lets us:
  • begin recruitment of subject matter experts (SMEs)
  • determine how the items will be mapped.
    • Does a test blueprint (content outline) already exist?
    • Is a logical job analysis needed?
  • tap into any content that may already be developed
How many items? What types? Pilot testing?

• How many items?
  • Critical to determine how many SMEs will be needed for item writing and review
  • Allows you to determine how many meetings (virtual and/or in-person) will be necessary

• What types?
  • New item types will take longer to develop and require additional SME training
  • Alternative item types also typically take longer

• Pilot testing?
  • If yes, then when will the pilot testing take place
  • Pilot testing can compress already tight development timelines
  • Pilot testing may require more item development to account for poor item performance
How will the items be developed?

• Be prepared to hold remote meetings
  • Develop supporting training documents (PDFs, short videos, Word files, etc.)
  • Use learning management systems to create online training modules
  • Hold conference calls and webinars for both training purposes and item review

• Take advantage of item banking system capabilities
  • Most systems allow for remote item submission and review

• Plan in-person meetings carefully
  • Allow enough time for content to be developed
  • Have a plan in place to maximize item review and approval
How will items be delivered?

• Will your organization’s standard delivery method/vendor be utilized?
  • If yes, you will need to work with the vendor on unique delivery components
  • If no, how and by whom will the items be delivered to your candidates?
    • How will the items be transmitted (QTI, XML, Word/Excel, etc.)?
    • How far in advance do the items need to be delivered?
    • How will a quality review of the rendered content be conducted?
When do items need to be ready for delivery?

- Items should always be transmitted with time for a quality review
- If items are being pilot tested:
  - When is the pilot testing conducted?
  - Are there multiple forms needed to pilot all items?
  - When will the pilot window close and results be reported?
  - How soon after results will items need to be ready for live delivery?
Start By Creating a Timeline

• Once the critical variables are determined, create a content development timeline
  • Include major milestones and checkpoints
  • Assign a responsible party for each milestone/checkpoint
  • Outline when answers are needed from those outside the development group
  • Communicate the timeline to other departments and stakeholders
    • Make sure others are aware of the development timeline and the effect that their decisions/input may have on your timeline
Key Takeaways

• Questions, questions, and more questions
  • The more questions the more answers, the more answers the less unknowns
  • Using remote trainings and development activities goes a long way in getting content in short timeframes
  • Nothing can substitute for an in-person SME meeting, but maximizing your face-to-face time with SMEs is critical
  • Be prepared for curveballs
    • Always build in extra time when possible for the inevitable unknowns
  • Learn how to say no (politely)
Questions?