Lessons Learned:
Writing Items and Critiques for Question-Based Longitudinal Assessment Programs

Carolyn L Kinney MD, Executive Director, ABPMR
Disclosures:
None
ABPMR CertLink Pilot Design

- 15-20 questions per quarter
- Customization System
  - Participants can weight their content from 10% minimum to 35% max in five categories (except Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine at 0% minimum)
  - The 10% minimum in all categories is “core content”
CertLink Item Development

Building the Bank

- Over 200 items reviewed and in clinical scenarios by board directors
- Three CertLink item writing workshops held in 2016-17
- Current item writers for other exams generating additional items
- Recruited ongoing CertLink item writers from workshops
CertLink Item Development

Sustaining the Item Bank

• 30 item writers and 10 reviewers creating new content annually
• Each writer creates five new items per quarter, three quarters per year
CertLink Item Development

Clone Development

• Did not want to ask item writers to also write clones for their items
• Successful formula found: **Clone-writing party!**
• Invited current, experienced item writers (for other exams); had them invite a colleague
• Group wrote all CertLink item clones in Chicago in a single day
  • 23 people wrote 230 clones based on 115 original items
  • Clones cost ABPMR $65 per item – a bargain!
CertLink Item Development

Challenges

• IT infrastructure and submission of items
• Recruitment of writers for specialized content
• Critique consistency
CertLink Item Development

Partnering with Specialty Societies

• ABPMR does not involve societies specifically in item development/review
• Relationships with specialty societies allows ABPMR space at annual meetings
• Developing a society partnership agreement to provide customized learning resources
• Exploring society partnership for identifying key articles
Questions?
American Board of Pathology
CertLink
Rebecca L. Johnson, MD
CEO, ABPath
ABPath CertLink

• Soft launch September 2017
• Pilot launch July 2018
• Voluntary participation
  • 20 items each quarter
  • 5 minutes; any resources, except
  • No assessment of performance initially
  • 11 subspecialties; 32 practice areas; 24 offered
  • 80 items/year
  • No fee
• Alternative to 10-year exam
ABPath CertLink

- Current CC Part III
  - Secure, remote examination; open book
  - every 10 years
  - modular; 150-200 Qs

- CC CertLink Pilot
  - longitudinal, more frequent assessment
  - both formative and summative
ABPath CertLink Incentives

- No fee for first 18 months
- Decrease SAMs requirement
- Offer CME?
- 2018, -19, -20 diplomates’ refund
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Your Assessment Design

The required Core content is assigned by ABPath based on the certifications that you are maintaining via the Continuing Certification Program. Electives are practice areas and content that you choose. Choose practice areas from the list below and add them to your assessment. Once added, you may select how much content from each practice area appears in your assessment.

**Required:** Required Core content is assigned by ABPath and makes up **20%** of your assessment's content.

**CORE**

- This content cannot be adjusted or removed

**Electives:** Electives content is chosen and customized by you and makes up **80%** of your assessment's content.

**NOTE:** After you make your selections and lock your assessment design, you may see practice areas assigned to you that you did not specify - this is because some questions are applicable to multiple practice areas.

**BREAST**

- Min 5% – Max 30%

**CYTOPATHOLOGY - GYN**

- Min 5% – Max 30%

The Assessment Design is locked until January 1, 2019 12:00 AM
Item Design

• Practical, interpretive, problem solving; timely
• Image rich
• Vignette; clear lead-in
• MCQ, SBA
• Comment
• Confidence, relevance
• Feedback, critique, references
• Try again
• Dashboard
Key Point:
Flat epithelial atypia and breast cancer risk.

Critique:
The biopsy shows flat epithelial atypia. Population studies indicate that the subsequent breast cancer risk associated with a diagnosis of flat epithelial atypia is approximately 1.5-2 fold, similar to the risk associated with proliferative disease without atypia. Patients with a diagnosis of fibroadenoma or proliferative disease have a 1.5-2 fold risk. Patients with atypical ductal hyperplasia or atypical lobular hyperplasia have a 4-5 fold risk. Patients with ductal carcinoma in situ or lobular carcinoma in situ have 8-10 fold risk.
American Board of Pathology

Community Comparison

80% YOU
77% PEERS

You are performing 3 percentage points better than your peers

Your Performance

☑ 16 Correct Answers
☐ 4 Incorrect Answers
☐ 0 Remaining Questions

20 TOTAL QUESTIONS
Assessment Details

48 DAYS REMAINING

Complete

You've finished the required questions for this assessment period. Your next set of questions will become available on October 1, 2018.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Practice Area</th>
<th>Correct</th>
<th>Incorrect</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urinary Tract, Kidney</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Pathology</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Pathology, General</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cytology - NonGYN</td>
<td>67%</td>
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## American Board of Pathology

### Your Question History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Key Point</th>
<th>Answered</th>
<th>Review</th>
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<tr>
<td>GI (INCL. LIVER, PANCREAS, BILIARY), SOFT TISSUE &amp; BONE, PRACTICE AREA, SURGICAL PATHOLOGY</td>
<td>Diagnosis of gastrointestinal stromal tumors: IHC.</td>
<td>07/26/18</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, GENERAL PATHOLOGY/BASIC SCIENCE, LAB MANAGEMENT/MEDECAL DIRECTOR/PATIENT SAFETY, CP CORE, APICP CORE, CLINICAL PATHOLOGY, GENERAL PRACTICE AREA</td>
<td>Normal distribution, definitions of mean, median, mode.</td>
<td>07/26/18</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>BREAST, SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, PRACTICE AREA</td>
<td>Sclerosing adenosis</td>
<td>07/26/18</td>
<td>Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PULMONARY, MEDIASTINUM, DERMATOPATHOLOGY, SURGICAL PATHOLOGY, HEMATOPOIETY (LN, SPLEEN)</td>
<td>Presence of asteroid bodies.</td>
<td>07/26/18</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRACTICE AREA, APICP CORE, URINARY TRACT, KIDNEY, AP CORE, SURGICAL PATHOLOGY</td>
<td>Diagnosis of renal clear cell carcinoma.</td>
<td>07/26/18</td>
<td>Details</td>
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**Attention:** You indicated that you were not confident in your answer, but that this topic is relevant to your practice.
Resources

Your resources are grouped by categories, below. To begin, click or tap to expand a category and browse the list of options, or use the keyword search feature to find the resource you are looking for.

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**Education**

**CME Finder**
- Provider: ACCME
- Content Area: ALL
- **Overview:** ACCME’s CME Finder is an online resource for CME activities that satisfy Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment requirements. Search by specialty, keyword(s), activity type, number of credits, and other filters to find courses which are relevant to your practice and meet Continuing Certification requirements.

**Continuing Certification Directory**
- Provider: ABMS
- Content Area: ALL
- **Overview:** The ABMS Continuing Certification Directory, formerly known as the MOC Directory, provides continuing certification resources for diplomates. It offers practice-relevant, accredited CME activities to help meet Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment requirements.

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**Policy**

**ABPath CertLink Policies and Information**

**CertLink Policies and Information**
- Provider: ABPATH
- Content Area: ALL
- **Overview:** Access the ABPath CertLink Policy page for complete details about the ABPath CertLink program.

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**Support**

Options for contributing to the ABPath CertLink Pilot
ABPath CertLink

• AP & CP Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs)
• Crowdsourcing
• Contributions from Specialty Societies
• Revamp of item development
  • Increase number of item writers
  • More frequent item submission
  • New role for TDACs
ABPath CertLink Lessons Learned

- Write critiques
- One clone/item
- QC of items
- Train item writers
- Hire an editor
- Item bank
- Psychometrics
- Cost analysis
- Article-based
- ABMS support