

National Board Report

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Score Report Day

The NBVME office is a great place to work. On two days each year, one in January and one in May, excitement is in the air when the FedEx driver delivers an envelope from the NBME, containing a CD with candidate score information. Each licensing board receives a CD containing scores for its candidates, but our office receives copies of all the scores. Score reporting is the final and most significant step in the long NAVLE application and approval process.

Debbie Larson has the primary responsibility for reporting scores for seven states, including six that contract with the NBVME for NAVLE approval and score reporting services, plus North Dakota. She and Tonee VanderVliet work hard to get all the score reports in the mail the same day they arrive in the office. For the fall testing window, this represented about 740 individual reports. An additional 273 reports were sent in May, following the spring testing window.

Anita Casey-Reed is responsible for processing all of the on-line NAVLE applications, and for matching the NAVLE applications with approval lists sent to us by the individual licensing boards. This work results in her being able to "know" many NAVLE candidates through e-mail and telephone correspondence. When the scores arrive, time is set aside to see who passed and who didn't. Good news for some; not so good news for others.

Serving licensing boards and examination candidates is why we are here, and we consider it a privilege to do so, especially on score report day.

John R. Boyce, DVM, PhD
Executive Director

Board Investigates Irregular Behavior

On March 25, the NBVME held the first of what may be several hearings involving allegations of candidate irregular behavior. In the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates, the NBVME defines irregular behavior as "*any behavior that undermines the application, assessment, or certification processes of the NBVME or that threatens the integrity of the NAVLE certification process.*"

All NAVLE candidates are required to read and agree to the following statement before they take the examination: "*This examination contains test materials that are owned and copyrighted by the NBVME. Any reproduction of these materials, or any part of them, through any means, including, but not limited to copying or printing of electronic files, reconstruction through memorization and/or dictation, and/or dissemination of these materials or any part of them is strictly prohibited.*"

The specific issue dealt with at the March hearing, which involved three members of the NBVME Executive Committee, was the apparent sharing of NAVLE content among candidates via e-mail. Four NAVLE candidates were invited to the hearing, and three attended. Two of the candidates had taken the NAVLE during the fall 2005 testing window, and the other two were candidates for the April 2006 examination. Scores of the two fall candidates were held pending the outcome of the hearing.

Each hearing was scheduled for 90 minutes. The candidate had the opportunity to present information in his or her defense, and the board members had the opportunity to ask questions. After the hearings concluded, the board members reviewed the information and voted to invalidate the scores of the two candidates who had taken the NAVLE during the fall 2005 test window. One of the two candidates who was an

applicant for the April 2006 examination was barred from taking the NAVLE during that window. The other April candidate, who did not attend the hearing, was given the option of canceling her April test appointment, or taking the April exam and having her score held pending a June hearing. She subsequently chose the first option. All four candidates will be allowed to take the NAVLE during the fall 2006 testing window.

Four more candidates have been invited to attend a hearing in June. Three of these candidates, two of whom have taken and passed the NAVLE, appear to have been involved in posting NAVLE content on an internet discussion group. The NBVME was able to match many of the posted material to actual NAVLE items. The other candidate may have been involved in sharing NAVLE content with other candidates via e-mail.

The NBVME's investigation continues. Additional hearings are likely, pending the collection and analysis of additional evidence. In other actions taken to date, one internet discussion group where NAVLE content was posted has been closed, at the NBVME's request. In addition, a student web site at an accredited veterinary school included a file that appeared to contain NAVLE content. With the prompt cooperation of the school's administration, that site was taken down.

Individuals who have information regarding possible irregular behavior are encouraged to share that information with the NBVME office, and the board will investigate and take appropriate action. Veterinary schools should review information posted on student web sites and report possible violations of examination security.

There is a difference between preparing for the NAVLE by studying information that might be covered on (continued on page 2)

Irregular Behavior (continued from page 1)

the examination, and exchanging NAVLE test materials. The former is appropriate and expected, while the latter is unethical, violates the NBVME's policy on irregular behavior, may affect a candidate's ability to be licensed, and is probably illegal.

Most of the candidates who have been implicated in the above irregular behavior incidents are graduates of foreign, non-accredited schools. Using the NAVLE as part of a certification process for foreign graduates has been a concern of the NBVME for some time. The adoption by the ECFVG next year of a new step 3 examination to replace the NAVLE should help reduce the security pressure on the NAVLE. PAVE uses the NBVME's Qualifying Examination instead of the NAVLE as its step 3 requirement.

Strategies used to ensure the security and integrity of the NAVLE include a large item bank, multiple content-balanced forms, the use of 60 pretest items on each form, scrambling items on test forms, and offering repeating candidates a test form that contains few, if any items from previous forms. The NBVME appreciates the assistance of licensing boards, veterinary schools and individual candidates in ongoing efforts to defend the NAVLE against those who would compromise it.

NBVME Summer Meeting

The NBVME will hold its summer meeting June 22-23 in the Chicago area. Dr. Mike Thomas will chair the meeting. Contact the NBVME office for more information.

From the Past: State Board Questions

Number 20 in a Series

Following are more items from the *Materia Medica* chapter of *Veterinary State Board Questions and Answers*, published in 1917 by V.G. Kimball.

Questions

1. Give the actions and uses of quinine sulphate.
2. Name three local anæsthetics and describe the mode of application of each.
3. Give the composition and the uses of Fowler's solution of arsenic.
4. What is strychnine? Describe the actions and uses of strychnine.
5. Give the external and the internal use of oil of turpentine. State how oil of turpentine should be administered.
6. What are the medicinal uses of gnetian root?

Answers

1. Quinine sulphate is a tonic, antiseptic, antiperiodic, antipyretic, antiphlogistic, antimiasmatic, stomachic, and antiferment. Small doses stimulate the heart and brain, large doses depress both. Used in anæmia, septicæmia, pyæmia, influenza, strangles, purpura hemorrhagica, and other infectious febrile diseases. It is of great benefit in distemper of dogs, chorea, and rheumatism; also used as an antipyretic and stimulant in pneumonia and bronchitis.
2. Cocaine hydrochloride. Dose for the horse, 2 to 10 grains, hypodermically. Used in 4 to 10 per cent solution, injected under the skin. Eucaine Hydrochlorate. Used same as cocaine. Phenol. Applied to the skin over the line where an incision is to be made.

- line where an incision is to be made.
3. Fowler's solution (liquor potassii arsenitis) is an arsenical preparation of 1 per cent strength. Used as a alterative and tonic in chronic intestinal catarrh, emaciation, chronic dyspnea (heaves), chorea, chronic skin diseases, anæmia, rachitis, osteomalacia, etc.; as a vermifuge for intestinal worms; used externally to remove warts.
4. Strychnine is an alkaloid obtained from nux vomica. Used in paralysis, depression of the nervous system, atonic dyspepsia, heaves, diarrhœa due to relaxation of the bowels from lack of tone, in small doses; convalescence from debilitating diseases, collapse, heart-weakness, chloroform, syncope, narcotic poisoning, constipation, incontinence of the urine, etc.
5. Used externally as a counterirritant, rubefacient, or stimulant in sprains, arthritis, pleurisy, peritonitis, spasmodic colic, etc. Internally, it is used as an antiferment in flatulency, anthelmintic for round and tapeworms, stimulating and antiseptic expectorant in chronic bronchitis, genito-urinary antiseptic in purulent hemorrhage and purpura hemorrhagica. Injected intratracheally for lung worms in calves and lambs. It is usually administered in oil or milk. (Its irritating properties are greatly overestimated, however, as it can be given by the mouth undiluted with no inconvenience to the patient.)
6. Stomachic in indigestion, debility, and convalescence. Used to relieve acute and chronic flatulence.

Next issue: More *Materia Medica*

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Acronyms!

A faithful reader of the *National Board Report* has asked for a listing of some of the acronyms used in this newsletter and other NBVME publications.

NBVME: National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, Bismarck, ND

NBEC: National Board Examination Committee; predecessor of NBVME, 1980-1994

NBME: National Board of Medical Examiners, Philadelphia, PA; NAVLE vendor

NAVLE: North American Veterinary Licensing Examination; computer-based licensing exam, 2000 to present

EDC: Examination Development Committee; 10 member panel of content experts who oversee NAVLE development

PTC: Prometric Testing Center; computer testing center that administers the NAVLE

AMP: Applied Measurement Professionals, Shawnee Mission, KS; vendor for NAVLE job analysis

NBE: National Board Examination; multiple choice licensing exam, 1954 - 2000

CCT: Clinical Competency Test; 14 problem case-based licensing exam, 1979 - 2000

PES: Professional Examination Service, New York, NY; NBE and CCT vendor

AAVSB: American Association of Veterinary State Boards, Kansas City, MO

PAVE: Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence; AAVSB's foreign graduate certification program

QE: Qualifying Examination; NBVME's basic science exam for PAVE, 2004 - present

VCSA: Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment; NBVME's hands-on clinical skills exam for PAVE, first offered in 2005

CVC: Cedar Valley College, Dallas, TX; site for the VCSA

VIVA: Veterinary Information Verifying Agency; AAVSB's examination score reporting service

NEB: National Examining Board, Ottawa, Ontario; NAVLE application, approval, and score reporting agency for Canadian candidates

ECFVG: Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates; AVMA's foreign graduate certification program

NAVLE Form Review

On April 19-20, NBVME members were joined by members of the EDC, five recent graduates, and two licensing board members designated by the AAVSB to review upcoming forms of the NAVLE at the NBME office in Philadelphia.



Recent graduates enjoying the form review (l to r): Drs. Meena Ishikawa, Baton Rouge, LA; Bobby Nichols, Washington, DC; Annette Roug, Irvine, CA; Grant Gosch, Mobridge, SD; and Lana Delaney, Saskatoon, SK.



(l to r): Drs. Don Draper, Dale Boyle, Jim Dalley, and Cheryl Dhein



A lot of examination experience is represented above in three dedicated and hard working individuals who participated in their final NAVLE form review in April as EDC members: Drs. Jim Thorne, Univ. of Missouri (bovine); Stan Rubin, Univ. of Saskatchewan (canine), and Claude Ragle, Washington State Univ. (equine).

Examination Updates

NAVLE

A total of 1,114 candidates took the NAVLE during the April 10-22 testing window. Scores for most candidates were reported to licensing boards in early May, and the remainder of the scores were reported on May 16.

Applications for the fall 2006 testing window will be accepted beginning in mid-June. The application deadline is August 14. The 2006-07 edition of the NAVLE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available on the NBVME's web site, www.nbvme.org. The NAVLE fee for the 2006-07 testing windows is \$465, an increase of \$15 over last year.

All NAVLE candidates must be approved by a licensing board. For the 2006-07 testing windows, the NBVME office will be responsible for approving candidates applying through seven states: Florida, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Qualifying Examination

The web-based Qualifying Examination (QE) was administered to 83 PAVE candidates on May 11, 2006. The examination was offered in St. Kitts and Grenada, and at four sites in the US. Scores will be reported in June.

The QE was also administered to 92 students at the Western University College of Veterinary Medicine on May 11. This is the second year that Western has required its students to take the QE, as an independent outside assessment of basic science competence.

The NBVME presented information on the QE at the AAVMC meeting in Washington on March 13. At its June 22-23 meeting, the NBVME will review a proposal from Iowa State University to administer the QE to its students. Representatives of several other accredited schools have also expressed interest in using the QE.

Future QE administrations are planned for September 14, 2006, and January 18 and May 10, 2007. The 2006-2007 QE Bulletin of Information for Candidates is available at www.nbvme.org.

VCSA

Four candidates took the Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) at Cedar Valley College in Dallas on April 22-23. Two of the candidates passed the examination. The next VCSA administration is being planned for January 6-7, 2007. In June, the NBVME will consider the possibility of offering the VCSA in late August or early September, if there are enough candidates desiring to take it at that time. PAVE candidates are eligible to take the VCSA only after they pass the QE.

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