IOWA LUTHERAN HOSPITAL TRACK-DES MOINES
UNITYPOINT HEALTH-CENTRAL IOWA FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY

Policy: In-Training Exam (ITE) Performance

Purpose: The purpose of the ILH policy is to ensure residents attain and retain the requisite knowledge to safely advance through the residency program and to successfully pass the ABFM specialty examination at the end of residency training. The ITE is a nationally standardized instrument administered annually to essentially all FM residents enrolled in ACGME postgraduate training programs and accurately predicts knowledge and future success on the ABFM specialty examination.

Definition: Residents who attain scores which for their training year have a significantly poor prediction for passing the ABFM exam will be required to undertake a formal remediation course and rewrite an ITE as chosen by the faculty and program director.

Preliminary Procedure: A resident with low ITE performance will be identified by the program director and the resident's faculty advisor following the receipt of the ITE examination results. A formal remediation program to address medical knowledge deficits will be designed by the faculty and program director in collaboration with the resident, attempting to use individual learning styles and adult learning resources as considered appropriate by the advisor and program director. The identified resident's CME money will be utilized to purchase any necessary materials or costs accrued for the remediation program. Following completion of the remediation program to the satisfaction of the faculty advisor and the program director, the resident will be administered a follow-up ITE from the ABFM. The resident will be expected to achieve an improved score, the equivalent or greater than one predictive of passing the ABFM exam before being allowed to stop the remediation process.

Policy for Unsuccessful Remediation: It is believed that a majority of identified residents will successfully complete the remediation program and achieve the requisite score on the follow-up examination. If remediation is unsuccessful and the resident fails to meet the standard set for performance in the remediation process and on the follow-up examination, the resident will immediately be placed on academic probation. Subsequent arrangements will vary and may include a second remediation program to dismissal from the program. The resident's duration of training could be extended by the time necessary to successfully complete the subsequent remediation. Decisions regarding the institution of the action plan and criteria for successful completion will remain with the faculty, resident advisor, and ultimately, the program director.

Reviewed 5/2026