AANEM In-Service Self-Assessment Examination FAQs

This document answers Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS) about the AANEM in-service self-assessment examinations (SAEs). The AANEM offers two types of in-service examinations for training programs - one in Neuromuscular (NM) medicine and one in Electrodiagnostic (EDX) medicine.

Table of Contents

Mission

The SAE is part of the medical education program of the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM). The mission of all AANEM SAEs is to assist practitioners, residents, and fellows in maintaining the highest standards of practice through self-assessment examination.

Objectives

EDX SAE
The EDX SAE is designed as a self-assessment tool to assist physicians: by identifying their strengths and weaknesses in the area of EDX medicine; as a study guide for board examinations; as a teaching tool in residency programs; and to meet maintenance of certification requirements for board certification. The exam itself is in two parts – video, and written. During the video clip portion of the examination, physicians are asked to describe and identify characteristics of motor unit action potentials, spontaneous activity, and abnormal potentials, and to interpret their significance (medical knowledge). The written portion of the examination covers physicians' background knowledge and the application of neurophysiologic techniques to the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of patients with impairments and/or disabilities of musculoskeletal, neurologic, or other body systems (medical knowledge, practice-based learning). The examination covers anatomy, the autonomic nervous system, clinical applications, needle electromyography (EMG), ethics, nerve conduction studies, muscle and nerve pathology and physiology, somatosensory evoked potentials, and technical considerations (medical knowledge, practice-based learning, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice).

NM SAE
The NM SAEs are designed as a self-assessment tool to assist physicians: by identifying their strengths and weaknesses in the area of neuromuscular medicine; as a study guide for board examinations; as a teaching tool in residency and fellowship programs; and to meet maintenance of certification requirements for board certification. The examination covers candidates' background knowledge and the application of neurophysiologic techniques to diagnostic testing, evaluation, pathogenesis, and management of patients with neuromuscular disorders (medical knowledge, practice-based learning, professionalism, systems-based practice).

Examination Structure

Examination Format

The AANEM does not offer a pass/fail grade for SAEs. AANEM offers annual SAE National Average Results for both individuals and training institutions. The results by training level are shared with institutions that proctor the SAEs and will be available a week or two after the exam.

EDX SAE

Part I of the examination contains 50 multiple-choice video clip questions and should be completed in 1 hour. It tests the ability to identify electrical potentials recorded with needle electrodes and displayed on a monitor. Physicians are asked to describe and identify characteristics of motor unit action potentials, spontaneous activity, and abnormal potentials, and interpret their significance, as well as to analyze EDX techniques and anatomy.

Part II of the examination contains 100 multiple-choice questions and should be completed in 2 hours. It tests background knowledge and the application of neurophysiologic techniques to the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of patients with impairments and/or disabilities of musculoskeletal, neurologic, or other body systems. The examination covers anatomy, the autonomic nervous system, ethics, needle EMG, nerve conduction studies, clinical applications, muscle and nerve pathology and physiology, somatosensory evoked potentials, and technical considerations.

Part III of the examination is a review session. The 2-hour review session is optional and based on institutional preference. The review session of the exam includes the correct answer for each question, a summary (explanation) to the answer choices, and references.

NM SAE

Part I of the examination contains multiple-choice questions (100 questions on the exam) and should be completed in 2 hours. It tests background knowledge and the application of neurophysiologic techniques to the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of patients with impairments and/or disabilities of musculoskeletal, neurologic, or other body systems. The examination covers motor neuron disease, root, plexus, nerve, neuromuscular junction, and muscle considerations.

Part II of the examination is a review session. The 1-hour review session is optional and based on institutional preference. The review session of the exam includes correct answers for each question, a summary (explanation) to the answer choices, and references.

System Requirements

The SAEs are delivered through an online learning system. In order to ensure that test takers are able to view the videos (EDX SAE only) and questions in a timely fashion, institutions must conduct compatibility testing of all computers to be used for the SAE prior to proctoring the exam. The following minimum hardware and software requirements are necessary in order to ensure smooth delivery of the examination:

	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	Windows 10 Mac OSX 10.6.8+	Windows 10 Mac OSX 10.6.8+
Memory	4 GB of RAM	8 GB of RAM
Monitor Resolution	1024 x 768	1024 x 768 or higher
Internet Connection	DSL, cable modem or other high-speed internet connection	DSL, cable modem or other high-speed internet connection
Web Browser	Firefox v 84.0+, Chrome v90.0+, Edge v90.0+	Firefox v 84.0+, Chrome v90.0+, Edge v90.0+

IMPORTANT: Microsoft no longer supports Internet Explorer. As such, it is no longer a supported browser for this exam. The exam site will not work correctly with IE and will cause login, question display and submission errors. **Please have one or more of the above listed browsers available.**

Internet Connection Requirements

Institutions need to be connected to the institution's internal network, not a public, guest network.

A hardwired internet connection is recommended in order to prevent any potential Wi-Fi connectivity issues.

Web Browser Compatibility

Institutions offering the SAE to a large group of individuals in a computer lab setting are strongly urged to contact their institution's IT department to ensure their network can handle the network traffic of the exam.

Delivery of the examination is compatible across multiple browsers.

A sample video, which may be used to test your system(s) prior to delivery of the SAE, can be accessed at https://education.aanem.org/URL/video-test. You will need your AANEM username and login to view the test. If you do not know your login credentials, please email educationdept@aanem.org and we will send that information to you.

Please ensure that the video plays and you are able to hear the audio as well. If you have issues playing the sample video above, please contact your institution's IT department to ensure that streaming of online videos is permitted.

Continuing Education Credit

Both the NM SAE and EDX SAE are approved for MOC Part II credit by American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR) and American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). Those who are board-certified may claim this activity for MOC credit. Residents and fellows who wish to get continuing medical education (CME) credit for a SAE must seek approval from their Training Program Director and notify AANEM.

Disabilities

Candidates with a disability must arrange any necessary accommodations with their institution. The AANEM gives institutions the full right to accommodate an individual with a disability in any matter they deem fit. Please contact the SAE coordinator at AANEM with any further questions.

Feedback

Candidate results will be made available and a notification sent via email to the Training Program Directors and Coordinators by the end of May. It is the responsibility of the institutions to communicate scores to candidates.

Registration

When Does Registration Open?

Registration opens December 1 prior to the exam year.

Who Can Register Candidates for the Examination?

All candidates are registered online by and under their Training Program Director or Coordinator. If your institution's Training Program Director or Coordinator does not have an AANEM login, please contact the AANEM Education Department to have an account created.

What Do I Need to Register Candidates For the Examination?

To register your institution's candidates for the examination, you will need:

-First and last name, enduring email, degree(s) and PGY level for each candidate.

-Candidates must have an online user account with AANEM You can verify if candidates have an account during registration; if they do not have an account, candidates will have to create a user account with AANEM at https://www.aanem.org/Login.

-Form of payment: AANEM accepts all major credit cards. Upon payment, you will receive an email confirming your registration, including a list of the candidates. You may print the payment confirmation page for your records.

Where Do I Register Candidates For the Examination?

When registration opens, please visit: http://www.aanem.org/Education/Self-Assessment-Examinations/Training-Programs

Can My Institution Take More Than One SAE?

Yes. Many of the institutions take both the NM and the EDX SAE during the proctoring week of exams.

I Forgot to Register a Candidate - What Should I do?

You may add candidates up to the registration deadline. If the registration deadline has passed, please contact the Education Department for available options.

What if I Need to Cancel a Candidate Registration?

You may cancel candidates up to the registration deadline. However, there is an administration fee for canceling a candidate ($50 for the EDX SAE; $35 for the NM SAEs). There is no refund for cancellations after the registration deadline has passed.

Contact Information

Please contact the AANEM Education Department and ask to speak to the SAE coordinator with any questions, comments, or concerns.
AANEM Education Department:
(507) 288-0100
educationdept@aanem.org