



**Examination of  
Special Competence in Basic  
Perioperative Transesophageal  
Echocardiography  
(Basic PTEeXAM) Handbook**

**Tuesday, July 23, 2024**

**Apply online at [www.echoboard.org](http://www.echoboard.org)**

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## Basic PTEeXAM Important Dates

### IMPORTANT!

**Registration will end at 11:59 PM EDT (GMT-4) on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.**

Early Registration Fee Ends ..... **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**  
**at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**  
**\$795.00 USD**

Late Registration Fee Begins..... **Wednesday, February 14, 2024**  
**at 12:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time**  
**\$995.00 USD**  
*(includes \$200.00 non-refundable late fee)*

Withdrawal/Refund Deadline..... **Tuesday, June 2, 2024**  
**at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time**

Examination Date..... **Tuesday, July 23, 2024**  
Scores Emailed (*Anticipated*)..... **Approximately 12 weeks**  
**following the examination**

Requests for Special Accommodations Deadline....**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

**Examination Administration Grievance Policy. See page 7 for more details.**

# Introduction

## National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.

The National Board of Echocardiography, Inc. (NBE) was formed in December 1998. The NBE is a not-for-profit corporation established to:

- develop and administer examinations in the field of Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography,
- recognize those physicians who successfully complete the Examination of Special Competence in Basic Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (Basic PTEeXAM), and
- develop a board certification process that will publicly recognize as Diplomates of the National Board of Echocardiography, Inc. those physicians who have completed training programs or significant practice experience in the perioperative care of surgical patients with cardiovascular disease and in basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), as specified in this application, and have additionally passed either the Basic PTEeXAM, or the Advanced PTEeXAM.

The examination and board certification in basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography is not intended to restrict the practice of echocardiography. The process is undertaken, rather, in the belief that the public

desires an indication from the profession regarding those who have made the effort to optimize their skill in the performance and interpretation of cardiac ultrasound.

In cooperation with the American Society of Anesthesiology, the National Board of Echocardiography is offering certification in basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography. The primary purpose of this certification is to provide anesthesiologists who use TEE as a monitor during general anesthesia an opportunity to demonstrate their competence with this technique. Certification in basic perioperative TEE is NOT intended to qualify an individual to use TEE as a diagnostic tool to direct or assess cardiac surgical interventions; the board certification in perioperative transesophageal echocardiography offered by the NBE since 2003 remains unchanged and still serves this purpose and from this point on will be referred to as Advanced PTE Certification. The requirements for certification in basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography are based on the Guidelines for Training in Perioperative Echocardiography adopted by the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Echocardiography in 2002.

## Eligibility

### Basic PTEeXAM

Applicants for the Basic PTEeXAM must hold a valid (unexpired) license, including training or temporary licenses, to practice medicine at the time of application or must currently be enrolled in an ACGME accredited training program and in good standing. The applicant's license must contain an expiration date. If a license does not contain an expiration date an official, notarized letter from the Medical Council stating that a license is permanent or valid for "X" amount of years must also be submitted.

If you do not have a medical license, you must submit an original, notarized letter from the program director verifying this information. The letter must also be on appropriate letterhead, have the program director's original signature and include the ACGME program number.

- See sample letter at [www.echoboards.org](http://www.echoboards.org)

Please note that if you are in an ACGME accredited training program and you DO have a valid license to practice medicine, you DO NOT need to submit the letter from your program director also. A copy of the valid license to practice medicine will suffice.

**Non-North American Trained Physicians:** Non-North American Trained Physicians applying for the Basic PTEeXAM examination must supply the following:

**Current License to Practice Medicine.** If your medical license does not have an expiration date, you are required to supply ONE of the following:

- An original letter from the Medical Council stating your license is permanent, OR
- An original certificate of good standing, dated no more than 12 months prior to date application received.

All documentation must be supplied in English. If original documentation is not in English, a certified translation must be attached to each document. The examinee will be responsible for all costs associated with certified translation. Please allow yourself appropriate time if you need to obtain your medical license from a third party or if translation is necessary.

**NOTE: Only a copy of the Applicant's current license to practice medicine or a letter from current program director, completed application, and application fee are required in order to sit for the Basic PTEeXAM. Documentation for certification is not required when registering to take the Basic PTEeXAM. Documentation required to gain certification can be submitted at any time.**

### Testamur Status

For licensed physicians not meeting the criteria for certification, the NBE will continue to allow access to the examination. This is to encourage physicians to test and demonstrate their knowledge of basic perioperative transesophageal echocardiography based on an objective standard and to allow the medical community the opportunity to recognize individuals who elect to participate in and successfully complete a basic examination in perioperative transesophageal echocardiography. Those who successfully pass the examination, will be granted Testamur status as having successfully completed the Examination of Special Competence in Basic Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography of the National Board of Echocardiography, Inc.

### Certification

Licensed physicians who have passed the Basic PTEeXAM or the Advanced PTEeXAM and are board certified in anesthesiology may apply for Basic PTE Certification. The application, checklist, and all required documentation can be found on our website [www.echoboards.org](http://www.echoboards.org). The Certification Committee will meet to review applications for Certification. Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision of the Committee. Applicants will receive notification of the decision of the committee within the year.

Individuals who have passed the Basic PTEeXAM and have been awarded testamur status may apply for certification at any point at which they meet the clinical experience requirements as long as their testamur status remains valid. (For information concerning the Basic PTE Certification, visit our website at [www.echoboards.org](http://www.echoboards.org))

### Scope of Practice

The application of a basic perioperative TEE examination is limited to non-diagnostic use within the customary practice of anesthesiology. Because the goal of and training in basic PTE is focused on intraoperative monitoring rather than specific diagnosis, except in emergent situations, diagnoses requiring intraoperative cardiac surgical intervention or postoperative medical/surgical management must be confirmed by an individual with advanced skills in TEE or by an independent diagnostic technique.

# Application Details

## Fees and Deadlines

### Early Registration Fee Ends:

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 11:59 PM EDT  
\$795.00 USD

### Late Registration Fee Begins:

Wednesday, February 14 at 12:00 AM EDT  
\$995.00 USD

*(includes \$200.00 non-refundable late fee)*

### Refund/Cancellation Deadline:

Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 11:59 PM EDT

### IMPORTANT!

**Registration will end promptly at 11:59 PM EDT  
on Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

## Confirmation of Receipt of Application

It is recommended that you submit your online registration as early as possible. Registrations will be verified and completed in the order in which they are submitted. We will make every effort to accommodate as many candidates as possible. Registrations that are incomplete, or do not include payment will not be processed.

You will receive a confirmation email from NBE once your medical license or letter of good standing has been received and verified.

Please allow 2-6 weeks after submission of your online registration and payment for this to be completed. A valid e-mail address is required for confirmation.

## Refund/Cancellation and Deferment Policy

Candidates who wish to cancel/withdraw their registration and receive a partial refund (exam fee paid minus \$200.00) MUST submit a written request to cancel/withdraw via email to [examination@echoboards.org](mailto:examination@echoboards.org) **on or before** Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

Any requests received after this deadline will not be processed.

**\*Deferments are no longer an option. We apologize for any inconvenience.\***

## Submitting Applications

Please visit [www.echoboards.org](http://www.echoboards.org) to complete the online registration.

If you have any questions, please contact NBE for assistance. Our information is below.

### To contact our office:

Phone: (919) 861-5582

E-mail: [info@echoboards.org](mailto:info@echoboards.org)

Website: [www.echoboards.org](http://www.echoboards.org)

## \* NOTICE \*

It is REQUIRED to provide NBE with a copy of your appointment cancellation from Pearson VUE prior to receiving a refund.

## IMPORTANT!

**Please remember to write your name on the application in the SAME way as it appears on the unexpired, photo-bearing, signed, government-issued identification you will be using at the Prometric Testing Site. The name you provide on the application will be used to create the Scheduling Permit. Discrepancies in your first and last names will cause you to be denied admittance to the examination. Middle name(s) or initial(s) are not considered at the test center on exam day.**

# Examination Information

## Examination Date

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

## Pearson VUE Testing Center Information

The examination will be administered at Pearson VUE Testing Centers globally. All Pearson VUE Testing Centers are setup similarly. This not only helps enhance security, but also provides uniformity for all candidates. Workstations at all Pearson VUE test centers available to host the NBE examinations conform to Board-approved specifications.

Candidates are encouraged to submit registrations early. Candidates will not be able to schedule their test until their registration is complete and their Authorization to Test (ATT) notification has been received.

Visit [home.pearsonvue.com/nbe](http://home.pearsonvue.com/nbe) to search for Testing Centers by location.

Please see page 7 for Exam and Test Center Policies and Procedures.

## Determination of Passing Score

The passing score is based on an expected level of knowledge in echocardiography; therefore candidates are not measured against each other, but rather against the minimal level of knowledge established by the NBE.

All candidates will receive an emailed score report that indicates the minimum score required to pass the examination. The score reports also list the examinee's performance on each of the main areas of the examination.

Total score and performance scores for each section of the examination will be reported only to the examinee. A list including candidates who pass the exam, year that exam was passed, city and state, along with board certification status will be posted on the NBE web site. The Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologist (SCA) and the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) will be supplied the names of those who pass the exam.

**The score reports are emailed approximately twelve (12) weeks after the exam date. Certificates for passing the exam will be available to view and print on demand from NBE user profiles.**

**RESULTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN OVER THE TELEPHONE, VIA E-MAIL, or VIA FAX.**

## Frequently Asked Questions

Please visit our web site [www.echobords.org](http://www.echobords.org) for answers to frequently asked questions and a content outline. Sample letters to document education and experience in the required

## Notification of Change of Mailing Address or Email

Please notify the NBE immediately if your address and/or email has changed since applying for the Basic PTEeXAM. Email is NBE's preferred form of communication; therefore, failure to do so will cause delay in receiving correspondence from the NBE. You may submit your change(s) by logging onto our website at [www.echobords.org](http://www.echobords.org).

## Special Accommodations

NBE will provide, upon approved request, reasonable accommodations necessary to afford an individual with a documented disability an equal opportunity to participate in the Basic PTEeXAM. To support a request for special accommodations, please provide an original letter signed by applicant and an evaluator, qualified psychologist, physician, or other health care professional who specializes in the stated disability. The documentation must:

- Be current (completed within the last five years)
- Clearly state the diagnosed disability or disabilities
- Describe the functional limitations resulting from the disability
- Describe the specific accommodations requested and the rationale for such accommodations
- Be typed or printed on official letterhead and signed by the evaluator qualified to make the diagnosis
- Include examples, when possible, of where special accommodations have been requested and granted. If no prior accommodations have been provided, the evaluator, psychologist, physician, or health care professional should include a detailed explanation as to why no accommodations were given in the past and why the accommodations are needed now.

The purpose of the documentation is to validate that the candidate is covered under the ADA as a disabled individual. Additional documentation may be required to support the request. All documentation submitted in support of a request for special accommodation will be kept confidential.

If breastfeeding/pumping accommodations are needed, please choose YES in the online application.

Requests for special accommodation must be received at NBE headquarters ***on or before*** Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

*(continued on next page)*

# Examination Information (continued)

## Examination Content Outline

### 1. Patient Safety Considerations

- A. Contraindications
- B. Complications of Transesophageal Echocardiography
- C. Mechanical and Electrical Safety
- D. Infection Control

### 2. Echocardiographic Imaging: Acquisition and Optimization

- A. Principles of Ultrasound
- B. Transducers
- C. Structural Imaging
- D. Principles of Doppler Ultrasound
- E. Image Troubleshooting and Optimization

### 3. Normal Cardiac Anatomy and TEE Imaging Plane Correlation

- A. Imaging Plane Orientation
- B. Cardiac Anatomy Correlation Imaging Planes
- C. Cardiac Valves
- D. Major Vessels
- E. Other Structures

### 4. Global Ventricular Function

- A. Normal Left and Right Ventricular Systolic Function
- B. Abnormal Left Ventricular Systolic Function
- C. Right Ventricular Function
- D. Quantitative Evaluation of Ventricular Function

### 5. Regional Ventricular Systolic Function & Recognition of Pathology

- A. Myocardial Segmental Anatomy
- B. Imaging Planes and Segmental Anatomy
- C. Normal and Abnormal Segmental Function Recognition
- D. Recognition of Ventricular Pathology

### 6. Basic Recognition of Cardiac Valve Abnormalities

- A. Normal Valve Anatomy
- B. Acquired Valve Diseases
- C. Valve Pathology Recognition

### 7. Identification of Echocardiographic Findings in Non-Cardiac Surgery

- A. Tumors
- B. Thrombi
- C. Devices and Foreign Bodies
- D. Aortic Pathology
- E. Other

### 8. Basic Perioperative Hemodynamic Assessment

- A. Evaluation of Hypotension and Cardiovascular Instability
- B. Basic Perioperative Hemodynamic Assessment
- C. Hemodynamic Pressure Estimation
- D. Doppler Valve Profiles
- E. Basic Diastolic Function

### 9. Basic Recognition of Congenital Heart Disease in the Adult

- A. Atrial Septal Defects
- B. Ventricular Septal Defects
- C. Persistent Left Superior Vena Cava
- D. Bicuspid Aortic Valve

### 10. Surface Ultrasound for Vascular Access

- A. Normal Anatomy and Imaging Planes
- B. Atypical Anatomical Orientations
- C. Technique for Central Venous Cannulation
- D. Intravascular Pathology

## Reference Statement

NBE does not endorse or recommend any third-party review course or material. Any text in cardiovascular techniques and evaluation, cardiac patient care and management may be used. Current standards and guidelines endorsed by professional societies are also appropriate.

# Exam and Test Center Policies and Procedures

## Admission to the Test

You should arrive at the Pearson Vue test center 30 minutes before your scheduled testing time on your testing date. If you arrive late, you may be admitted. If you arrive more than 30 minutes after your scheduled testing time, you will not be admitted.

Please visit <https://home.pearsonvue.com/Test-takers/Resources.aspx> for Pearson Vue exam day policies, procedures and test center expectations.

## Testing Regulations and Rules of Conduct

Test center staff monitors all testing sessions for the examination. You must follow instructions of test center staff throughout the examination. Failure to do so may result in a determination of irregular behavior. Test center staff are not authorized to answer questions from candidates regarding examination content, testing software, or scoring. If staff observe you violating test administration rules or engaging in other forms of irregular behavior during the examination, the center staff will not necessarily tell you of the observation at the time of the examination. You may not bring any personal belongings in to the testing area. If you bring any personal belongings to the test center, you must store them in a designated locker outside the testing area. Personal items and their contents may be subject to inspection. Any materials that reasonably appear to be reproductions of any NBE examination materials will be confiscated. Making notes of any kind during the examination, except on the materials provided by the test center for this purpose, is not permitted. Removal of those materials from the secure testing area is prohibited.

For your examination, you may bring cordless soft-foam earplugs into the testing room. However, they must be out of the packaging and ready for inspection by test staff during check-in. Earplugs must be left at the workstation during all breaks.

## Exam Administration

Occasionally issues arise in the creation, administration and scoring of examinations. For example, power failures, hardware and software problems, human error, or weather problems may interfere with some part of the examination process or delay the reporting of scores. When such problems arise, NBE may provide the affected candidates with an opportunity to take the examination at the next scheduled examination date. This shall be the candidate's sole remedy. NBE shall not be liable to any candidate for inconvenience, expense, or other damage, including administration, scoring of an examination, or delays in score reporting. In no circumstance will NBE reduce its standards or overturn the candidate's score as a means of correcting a problem in examination administration. Issues or problems arising during the administration of the examination must be reported to Pearson Vue test center staff by the candidate experiencing the issue or problem at the time the exam is being administered and prior to the candidate departing the test center site on the day the examination is scheduled. Candidates must also notify NBE of any issues or problems with the administration of the examination within 48 hours of candidate's scheduled examination time.

In the rare event of a technical problem, testing software is designed to allow the test to restart at the point it was interrupted. In most cases, the test can be restarted at the point of interruption with no loss of testing time.

## Examination Administration

### Grievance Policy

If you wish to file a grievance regarding the administration of your examination, you must submit, in writing via email ([examination@echoboards.org](mailto:examination@echoboards.org)), a detailed description of the grievance(s) that occurred. You will have three (3) business days after the exam administration in question to submit your complaint(s) along with any appropriate or verifiable supporting documentation to the NBE office via the email addresses listed above.

## Approved NBE Exam Candidates

Upon the approval of an application, candidates are emailed an Authorization to Test (ATT) notification which will include your 1-day eligibility window to take the examination. The ATT provides instructions and details for scheduling your test date and location.

NBE's examinations are administered on only 1 day at over 230 Pearson Professional Centers (PPC) in the United States and US territories and over 3,000 Pearson VUE Authorized Test Centers (PVTC) internationally. Examination site availability is provided when scheduling your examination with Pearson VUE. Do not contact Pearson VUE until you have received an Authorization to Test (ATT). Available sites may be viewed at [www.pearsonvue.com/nbe](http://www.pearsonvue.com/nbe).

**IMPORTANT:** While the NBE tries to accommodate location preferences, preferred testing sites are NOT guaranteed, and travel may be necessary.

In the event you need to reschedule or cancel your examination, contact PearsonVUE within a full 48 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment.

- **Via phone** (\$10 fee): Call (800) 869-4102, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday (Outside of the U.S. (952) 681-3789).
- **Via internet** (no fee): Go to [www.pearsonvue.com/nbe](http://www.pearsonvue.com/nbe)

**IMPORTANT:** If you do not contact Pearson VUE within a full 48 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment you cannot reschedule or cancel the examination and your fees will be forfeited. For any issues with your examination fees, you will need to contact NBE.

## Exam Day

The only people admitted into the examination room are

1. Test Administrators
2. Authorized Candidates

## Identification (ID) Requirements

- The first and last name that the candidate uses to register must match exactly the first and last name on both ID's that are presented on test day.
- All ID's required must be issued by the country in which the candidate is testing. If the candidate does not have a qualifying primary ID issued from the country they are testing in, an International Travel Passport from their country of citizenship is required, along with a secondary ID.
- Candidate is required to present two forms of original (no photo copies), valid (unexpired) ID's; one form as a primary ID (government issued with name, recent recognizable photo, and signature) and one form as a secondary ID (with at least a name and signature, or name and recent recognizable photo).

### Primary ID:

- International Travel Passport
- Driver's license
- Military ID (including spouse & dependents)
- Identification card (national/state/province identity card)
- Alien registration card (green card, permanent resident, visa)
- Local language ID (not in Roman characters) – accepted only if issued from the Country the Candidate is testing in

### Secondary ID:

- Any ID containing at least name and signature, or name and recent recognizable photo that meets above ID requirement
- In Japan, a valid Blue Japanese Health Card is acceptable

[Click here to view Pearson VUE ID Policy.](#)