



Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Certification Examination Blueprint

What Does the Examination Cover?

The exam is designed to evaluate the candidate's knowledge and clinical judgment in the areas in which a consultant in endocrinology should demonstrate a high level of competence. Expertise in the broad domain of endocrinology, including the diagnosis and treatment of conditions that have important consequences for patients, will be assessed.

Exam content is consistent with a pre-established blueprint, or table of specifications. The blueprint is developed by the Subspecialty Board on Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism and is reviewed and revised annually to ensure that it is current. In addition, practicing endocrinologists, trainees in endocrinology, and training program directors are surveyed periodically to provide feedback on the blueprinting process. The blueprint is used as a guide in developing the exam.

Over 75 percent of the questions are based on patient presentations occurring in settings that reflect current medical practice. Questions requiring recall of medical facts are in the minority. The majority of questions require integration of information from several sources, prioritization of alternatives, and clinical judgment in reaching a correct conclusion. Some questions require interpretation of laboratory data, radiographic studies, photographs, or photomicrographs.

The general content areas are outlined below. Other topics may include general internal medicine as encountered in the practice of endocrinology, including some general pediatrics with an emphasis on adolescent medicine.

Medical Content Category	Relative Percentage
Adrenal	10%
Pituitary	10%
Lipids/Obesity	12%
Female Reproduction	7%
Male Reproduction	7%
Diabetes/Hypoglycemia	24%
Calcium and Bone	15%
Thyroid	15%
Total	100%

Content Outline of the Certification Examination

This content outline describes a *typical* Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Certification Examination; actual content on a specific examination may vary. Each content category from the examination blueprint is listed in boldface along with a target percentage and total number of questions in the category. Within each category, the approximate distribution of questions in specified areas is also listed.

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Adrenal (10%)	18-22 as follows:
Glucocorticoids	4-6
Mineralocorticoids	2-4
Adrenal androgens	3-5
Adrenal incidentaloma	1-3
Adrenal medulla	2-4
Adrenal cancer	1-2

Pituitary (10%)	18-22 as follows:
Prolactin	3-5
Growth hormone	3-5
Thyroid-stimulating hormone	1-3
Gonadotropins	0-2
ACTH	1-3
Non secreting tumors	1-3
Hypopituitarism	1-2
Empty sella	0-1
Antidiuretic hormone	1-2
Hypothalamic syndromes	0-1
Pituitary incidentaloma	0-1

Lipids/Obesity (12%)	20-26 as follows:
ATP-III guidelines	2-4
Primary disorders of hyperlipidemia	3-5
Primary disorders of HDL metabolism	1-2
Primary genetic hypolipidemias	1-2
Secondary disorders of lipid metabolism	1-2
Elevated homocysteine	0-1
Treatment of lipid disorders	4-6
Obesity	4-6

Female Reproduction (7%)	12-16 as follows:
Amenorrhea	2-5
Hirsutism/virilization	2-5
Premenstrual syndrome	0-1
Endocrine causes of infertility	1-3
Contraception	1-3
Perimenopause and menopause	1-3

Medical Content Category (Relative Percentage)	Number of Questions
Male Reproduction (7%)	12-16 as follows:
Hypogonadism	4-6
Infertility	1-2
Gynecomastia	1-2
Erectile dysfunction	1-3
Testosterone in aging men	1-3
Abuse of androgens	1-2

Diabetes/Hypoglycemia (24%)	45-52 as follows:
Type 1 diabetes mellitus	3-5
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	3-5
Monitoring glycemic control	3-5
Etiology	3-5
Definitions	1-3
Diagnosis	2-4
Islet cell and pancreas transplantation	0-2
Pregnancy in diabetes	3-5
Complications	4-6
Skin diseases related to diabetes mellitus	1-3
Inpatient management	1-3
Prevention of diabetes	4-6
Hypoglycemia	4-6
Other types of diabetes	0-2
Rare disorders	0-2

Calcium and Bone (15%)	28-32 as follows:
Hypercalcemia	7-10
Hypocalcemia	4-6
Osteoporosis	6-8
Paget's disease	1-3
Osteomalacia and rickets	2-4
Renal osteodystrophy	0-1
Nephrolithiasis	1-3
Osteogenesis imperfecta and bone dysplasias	0-1
Hypophosphatemia	1-3

Thyroid (15%)	28-32 as follows:
Hyperthyroidism	6-9
Hypothyroidism	2-4
Solitary nodules and nontoxic multinodular goiter	3-6
Thyroid cancer	3-6
Diagnostic thyroid testing/abnormal thyroid tests	2-4
Thyroid imaging	3-5
Pregnancy and thyroid disease	2-4