

## 2018-11-04: Criterion-referenced for Norm-based Examinations

Links shared during the chat:

- [http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Abstract/publishahead/Criterion\\_Based\\_Assessment\\_in\\_a\\_Norm\\_Based\\_World\\_.98102.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Abstract/publishahead/Criterion_Based_Assessment_in_a_Norm_Based_World_.98102.aspx)
- <https://www.slideshare.net/pokray/criterionreferenced-assessment>
- <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02602938.2015.1022136?scroll=top&needAccess=true&>



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat9 hours ago

Welcome to the Medical Education chat (US) I am your moderator for the next hour, @alliance4clined #meded



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat9 hours ago

The topic & questions will be announced in a moment...for now, please introduce yourselves #meded



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

If you are tuning in to the #meded chat, remember to use the #meded hashtag and try to answer with the Topic numbers (T1, T2, T3)



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

@MedEdChat Gary here in frozen Omaha #meded



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

We will assume that all of your tweets are your own during this hour unless otherwise stated #meded



**Renee** @02amor8 hours ago

Hi #meded. It's been a while. Renee from Philly, trying to get back after the New Year



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined8 hours ago

T1: What's preferred....criterion-referenced or norm-based exams for #meded? <https://t.co/D5E638Oj2c>



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

Topic 1: What is preferred for #medstudents vs. educators? Criterion-based exams or Norm-based exams? Why? #MedEd



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

@02amor Welcome! #meded



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

T1 It depends on the purpose of the exam. Nice resource explaining both... <https://t.co/gPeQrzKqDN> #meded <https://t.co/7PlyTARu9i>



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

RT [@GLBDallaghan](#): T1 It depends on the purpose of the exam. Nice resource explaining both... <https://t.co/gPeQrzKqDN> #meded <https://t.co/7P...>



**Alice Fornari** [@afornari18 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [@02amor](#) #MedEd same for me awhile too-



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

[@AFornari1](#) [@02amor](#) #meded Nice to see you [@AFornari1](#)



**Renee** [@02amor8 hours ago](#)

T1 #meded This is a good topic. As someone whose whole personal educational experience was conditioned to grades, the shift to longitudinal milestones to eval others is sometimes hard for me



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) T1 #meded I would think #medstudents would prefer criterion-referenced exams so they aren't compared to a group. Would be interesting to hear their take.



**Alice Fornari** [@afornari18 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) #MedEd i believe criterion based exams for assessment are more aligned with learnign intent and desired outcomes



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

[@02amor](#) T1 #meded Were your exams normed or did you get graded based on individual performance?



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

[@AFornari1](#) [@GLBDallaghan](#) T1 #meded Why then do we continue to rely so much on nationally standardized exams like #USMLE if desired outcomes arise from criterion-referenced exams?



**Paul Haidet** [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

I agree with [@AFornari1](#); criterion based tests are more compatible with current #meded competency and EPA-based curricula IF ... the bar is set high and challenging.



**Renee** [@02amor8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) T1 #meded a but of both. Some were straight grades with objective MCQ tests or iral exams, some based on population



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) [@AFornari1](#) T1 [#meded](#) How high of a bar do you set? What if the exams are poorly written?



**Paul Haidet** @myheroistrane8 hours ago

I have no idea. [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#) [#meded](#) <https://t.co/I3QA3gAm8m>



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) T1 [#meded](#) AMEN! [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#)



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

RT [@myheroistrane](#): I have no idea. [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#) [#meded](#) <https://t.co/I3QA3gAm8m>



**Renee** @02amor8 hours ago

T1 [#meded](#) steps/comlex are still defended by people who evaluate stufents coming from a wide array of schools, both usmd, usdo, and international. It gives a common, if flawed, touchstone <https://t.co/hpVSw7sFqS>



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined8 hours ago

[@02amor](#) T1 [#meded](#) That's true, but if they would report the outcome in as per guidelines for norm-based exams (Pass/Fail) it wouldn't be such an issue. Right? [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#)



**Paul Haidet** @myheroistrane8 hours ago

High enough to promote patient safety, reduce diagnostic errors, and restore public trust in the profession. A tall order, but also an important one. [#meded](#) needs to get this right. <https://t.co/th5VtnwgeA>



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) T1 [#meded](#) What's your opinion on setting a bar, but being flexible if for whatever reason the exam performance is lower than anticipated? Do you feel that's lowering standards? Or bad exam writing?



**Robert Hopkins** @aradultimmdoc8 hours ago

RT [@myheroistrane](#): High enough to promote patient safety, reduce diagnostic errors, and restore public trust in the profession. A tall orde...



**Robert Hopkins** @aradultimmdoc8 hours ago

RT [@myheroistrane](#): High enough to promote patient safety, reduce diagnostic errors, and restore public trust in the profession. A tall orde...



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat8 hours ago

Topic 2: If we truly want #CBME, criterion-based exams are preferred. What challenges would arise for #medstudents and #medschools doing this? #meded



**Renee** @02amor8 hours ago

@Alliance4ClinEd #meded I'm not opposed to that, personally. Some people are horrible test takers, fine drs. Others horrible drs, great test takers. But I know people who feel they need those numbers



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined8 hours ago

T2 #meded Criterion-referenced exams are better for #CBME. What are the challenges/opportunities in doing this?



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

@MedEdChat T2 #meded This is what I've been hinting at.....what if your faculty are not good at writing exam items? How can you be sure your exams then meet that bar? @myheroistrane



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined8 hours ago

@02amor T1 #meded Program directors are challenged by how to gauge candidates without the almighty score.



**Renee** @02amor8 hours ago

T2 #meded competency based eval is much more labor intensive, and very few of us are really trained to do it well (myself included)



**Stephanie Starr** @stephrstarr8 hours ago

#MedEd <https://t.co/o3aBarwLNR>



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** @glbdallaghan8 hours ago

#meded How do you ensure these assessments are being completed appropriately? Do you do a lot of #facdev? <https://t.co/pVvtPy2sNd>



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined8 hours ago

@02amor T2 #meded What kind of training would help? Do you think honest evaluations are difficult to give #medstudents?



**Paul Haidet** @myheroistrane8 hours ago

Could be either; this is why we need #meded research: to start connecting the dots between our assessments and patient outcomes. Organizations like #SDRME can help in this regard. <https://t.co/ZOSv8OJnBb>



**Renee** [@02amor](#) 8 hours ago

[#meded](#) good question. Direct mentoring, maybe co-eval of some students/trainees for new faculty? But again, time intensive <https://t.co/A1RKFuNoBl>



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan](#) 8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) T1 [#meded](#) And [#SDRME](#) could partner with [@Alliance4ClinEd](#) to undertake some interesting [#meded](#) research



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined](#) 8 hours ago

RT [@GLBDallaghan](#): [@myheroistrane](#) T1 [#meded](#) And [#SDRME](#) could partner with [@Alliance4ClinEd](#) to undertake some interesting [#meded](#) research



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined](#) 8 hours ago

RT [@02amor](#): [#meded](#) good question. Direct mentoring, maybe co-eval of some students/trainees for new faculty? But again, time intensive http...



**Stephanie Starr** [@stephrstarr](#) 8 hours ago

[@GLBDallaghan](#) I think everyone in [#MedEd](#) is challenged to do enough direct obs. We have several SP OSCE stations for HSS-related skills (shared decision-making, HVCC care)



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined](#) 8 hours ago

[@StephrStarr](#) [@GLBDallaghan](#) T2 [#meded](#) The OSCEs are great, but still an artificial experience. How can the direct obs happen more often in our RVU world so [#medstudents](#) are assessed in authentic patient encounters?



**Paul Haidet** [@myheroistrane](#) 8 hours ago

What if the educationo-industrial complex (that was on full display at [#AAMC17](#)) were to be oriented toward helping schools make robust assessments rather than gaming the existing test? [#meded](#) [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#) <https://t.co/otZHOYITWO>



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan](#) 8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) [#meded](#) Mic drop!



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat](#) 8 hours ago

RT [@Alliance4ClinEd](#): [@StephrStarr](#) [@GLBDallaghan](#) T2 [#meded](#) The OSCEs are great, but still an artificial experience. How can the direct obs h...



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan](#) 8 hours ago

[@myheroistrane](#) T2 [#meded](#) There's also the choice of balancing the two types of exams since they have different purposes. <https://t.co/HgdHUyE1T6>



**Stephanie Starr** [@stephrstarr8 hours ago](#)

[@Alliance4ClinEd](#) [@GLBDallaghan](#) Great question! Working collaboratively across schools to develop good tools and faculty development [#MedEd](#) interventions



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@GLBDallaghan](#): [@myheroistrane](#) T2 [#meded](#) There's also the choice of balancing the two types of exams since they have different purposes....



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

Topic 3: External forces are blamed for the reliance on norm-based exams. How can [#medschools](#) include other [#assessments](#) without them being used as another screening tool for residency? [#meded](#)



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

RT [@StephRStarr](#): [@Alliance4ClinEd](#) [@GLBDallaghan](#) Great question! Working collaboratively across schools to develop good tools and faculty de...



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

T3 [#meded](#) It's been argued that if [#USMLE](#) is pass/fail that program directors will find another arbitrary metric to rate [#medstudents](#). Is this an uphill battle to incorporate other forms of assessment?



**Stephanie Starr** [@stephrstarr8 hours ago](#)

T3: Or - can we change the UME to GME transition & culture to acknowledge those that have 'met the bar' and provide rich data re unique student strengths? [#MedEdhttps://t.co/XglJanboCB](#)



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) T3 [#meded](#) It seems as though the proliferation of the core EPAs may be an option. Should these be reported before or after the Match?



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

RT [@StephRStarr](#): T3: Or - can we change the UME to GME transition & culture to acknowledge those that have 'met the bar' and provide rich...



**Paul Haidet** [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

Here's a heretical thought: what if residencies did their own assessment? Then they could focus on abilities if importance to them, and it might keep the numbers of applicants more manageable. [#meded https://t.co/dzq8tgiAIU](#)



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[@StephRStarr](#) T3 [#meded](#) [@JaniceEducation](#) and her crew have been using more [#qualitative](#) data for assessments. Is that a route to take? That is labor intensive.



**Paul Haidet** @myheroistrane 8 hours ago

RT @StephRStarr: T3: Or - can we change the UME to GME transition & culture to acknowledge those that have 'met the bar' and provide rich...



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined 8 hours ago

T3 #meded That's a brilliant idea. Instead of a day of interviews have more skill based exercises to assess readiness for residency! Programs could then customize to their needs and not an arbitrary standard. <https://t.co/ByL7V4qukW>



**Renee** @02amor 8 hours ago

T3 #meded human tendency is to sort and rank. Then there's the actual Rank Order List to fully enumerate this!



**MedEd Chat** @mededchat 8 hours ago

RT @myheroistrane: Here's a heretical thought: what if residencies did their own assessment? Then they could focus on abilities if importan...



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined 8 hours ago

@myheroistrane T3 #meded How could this possibly happen? It would require quite a culture shift.



**Paul Haidet** @myheroistrane 8 hours ago

What it will take is some brave residency to do the work, find a creative way to offset the cost, and ignore the urge to have 1000 applicants for 5 slots. #meded<https://t.co/osS4waVTI7>



**Stephanie Starr** @stephrstarr 8 hours ago

@GLBDallaghan @JaniceEducation Certainly attractive as ideal state, but how do we disseminate to scale in a way that matches resource limitations? I know @JaniceEducation and colleagues will have great insights on this . . . #MedEd



**Melanie Lybarger** @melanielybarger 8 hours ago

RT @myheroistrane: Here's a heretical thought: what if residencies did their own assessment? Then they could focus on abilities if importan...



**Rachel Lewin** @mededunicorn 8 hours ago

@GLBDallaghan @StephRStarr @JaniceEducation It is labor intensive, but you get richer data. I don't think the answer is 100% one or the other, but probably some strategic qual work to support the quant info #meded



**Alliance4ClinEd** @alliance4clined 8 hours ago

RT @myheroistrane: What it will take is some brave residency to do the work, find a creative way to offset the cost, and ignore the urge to...



**Melanie Lybarger** [@melanielybarger8 hours ago](#)

RT [@StephRStarr](#): T3: Or - can we change the UME to GME transition & culture to acknowledge those that have 'met the bar' and provide rich...



**Rachel Lewin** [@mededunicorn8 hours ago](#)

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**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

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**Rachel Lewin** [@mededunicorn8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): What if the educationo-industrial complex (that was on full display at [#AAMC17](#)) were to be oriented toward helping schoo...



**Rachel Lewin** [@mededunicorn8 hours ago](#)

[@myheroistrane](#) This would be amazing, especially if it eased the path for people with different strengths/degrees of comfort with MCQs [#meded](#)



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): What it will take is some brave residency to do the work, find a creative way to offset the cost, and ignore the urge to...



**Alice Fornari** [@afornari18 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) [@StephRStarr](#) [@JaniceEducation](#) [#meded](#) at Zucker SOM [@ZuckerSoM](#) we use only essay exams and grade questions with one grader per question and use a rubric with points assigned to increase reliability-the students are receptive to exams and feel learnign is really assessed



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

Well, we have about 5 more minutes left in our discussion. Please feel free to give some final thoughts [#meded](#)



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@AFornari1](#): [@GLBDallaghan](#) [@StephRStarr](#) [@JaniceEducation](#) [#meded](#) at Zucker SOM [@ZuckerSoM](#) we use only essay exams and grade questions with...



**Paul Haidet** [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdUnicorn](#) It would also free [#medstudents](#) to focus on core abilities for their chosen specialty, rather than spend time on an unfocused test. [#meded](#)



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[@MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#) Final Thoughts.....The debate rages on between norm-based or criterion or both. Getting away from strictly normed exams is what we need to do



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): [@MedEdUnicorn](#) It would also free [#medstudents](#) to focus on core abilities for their chosen specialty, rather than spend t...



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): [@MedEdUnicorn](#) It would also free [#medstudents](#) to focus on core abilities for their chosen specialty, rather than spend t...



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): [@MedEdUnicorn](#) It would also free [#medstudents](#) to focus on core abilities for their chosen specialty, rather than spend t...



**Paul Haidet** [@myheroistrane8 hours ago](#)

Final thought: if assessment drives learning, we are laboring in a system where the assessments are focused on the wrong things. Time to fix this system! [#MakeUSMLEPassFail](#) [#meded](#)



**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): Final thought: if assessment drives learning, we are laboring in a system where the assessments are focused on the wrong...



**Alliance4ClinEd** [@alliance4clined8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): Final thought: if assessment drives learning, we are laboring in a system where the assessments are focused on the wrong...



**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

RT [@myheroistrane](#): Final thought: if assessment drives learning, we are laboring in a system where the assessments are focused on the wrong...



**Alice Fornari** [@afornari18 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) [@MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#) yes as leaders in education we must go beyond curriculum reform to assessment reform and both must happen together



**Renee** [@02amor8 hours ago](#)

[#meded](#) final thoughts- thank you for the discussion tonight



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**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

Join us again next week at 9 pm Thursday. Don't forget to suggest topics by DM or email [#meded](#)

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**Gary Beck Dallaghan** [@glbdallaghan8 hours ago](#)

[#meded](#) Which also requires evaluating what it means to be a successful program. Do 1st time board pass rates really mean your residency program is awesome? <https://t.co/b40i3vB5IV>

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**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@AFornari1](#): [@GLBDallaghan](#) [@MedEdChat](#) [#meded](#) yes as leaders in education we must go beyond curriculum reform to assessment reform and bot...

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**MedEd Chat** [@mededchat8 hours ago](#)

RT [@GLBDallaghan](#): [#meded](#) Which also requires evaluating what it means to be a successful program. Do 1st time board pass rates really mean...

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**Rachel Lewin** [@mededunicorn8 hours ago](#)

[@GLBDallaghan](#) YES. I work on remediations with residents and \*usually\* failure isn't a result of a lack of ability, but a lack of structure/accountability/knowing what to do to succeed. [#meded](#)