Item is written by the Item Development Committee.

Item is reviewed and revised by the Exam Development Committee, and approved to be added to the pool.

Item is sent to the Item Validation Committee (composed of recently certified ABMM Diplomates). These Diplomates answer the questions without consulting any references; they also have the opportunity to make comments about each of the questions.

Items for which there are anomalies or comments are sent back to the Exam Development Committee for additional revision and review.

Items for which there are no comments or anomalies are sent to the Exam Development Committee to be assigned CR values (average degree of difficulty). They are then added to the active pool of questions as “new items.”

Each time an item appears on an exam, a post-exam item analysis is conducted and examinee performance is reviewed.

New items whose CR values match the performance are considered fully validated.

Any items which fail to perform within the acceptable limits of difficulty and/or discrimination (more low performers answered correctly than top performers) are reviewed for correctness and appropriateness. New items whose CR values differ significantly from the performance are reviewed again for content and difficulty. During this review, items may be removed from scoring.

The cut (passing) score is recalculated based on any changes made.

Items removed from scoring can be sent back to the Exam Development Committee for revision or deleted from the pool.