

### Development of ABR Examination Questions

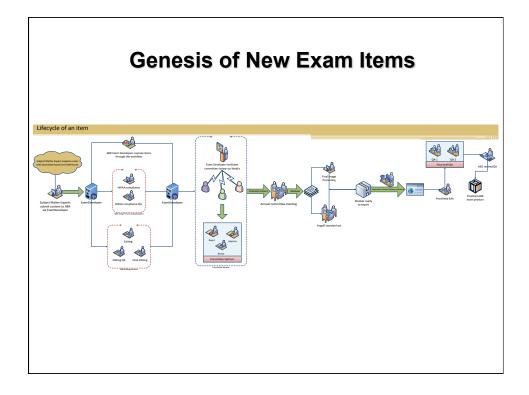
Jerry D. Allison, Ph.D. Trustee, ABR



# American Board of Radiology Mission

"To serve patients, the public, and the medical profession. . ."

"by certifying that its diplomates have acquired, demonstrated, and maintained a requisite standard of knowledge, skill, and understanding..."





# New exam content is created each year

#### For Part 1 and Part 2:

- · 60 % new items
- 40 % reused items
  - From a bank of previously used items
  - Known item statistics facilitate an understanding of exam difficulty



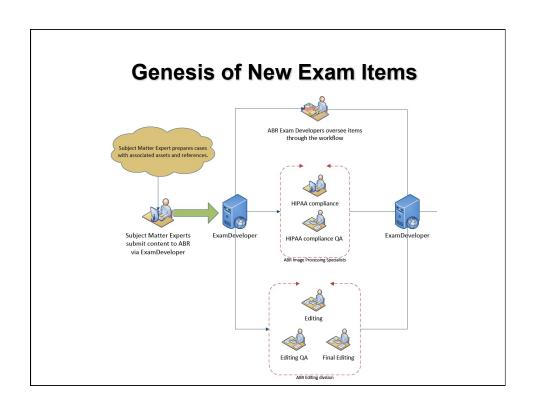
#### **Exam Content**

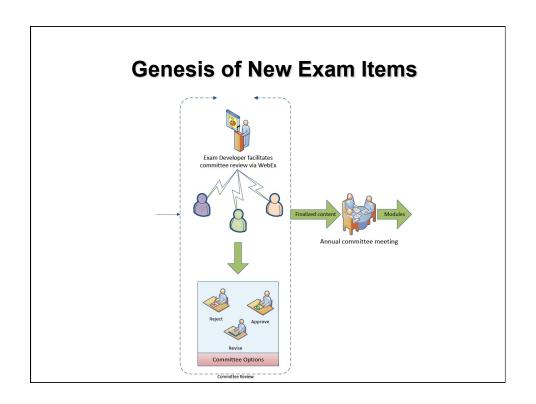
| Medical Physics Initial Ce            | rtification (2014) |         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| Exam                                  | Questions          | Time    |
| Part 1 General & Clinical             | 80 + 75            | 6 hrs   |
| Part 1 Clinical Only                  | 75                 | 1.5 hrs |
| Part 2                                | 80                 | 4.5 hr  |
| Orals                                 | 25                 | 2.5 hr  |
| Note: Question numbers will vary slig | jhtly              |         |

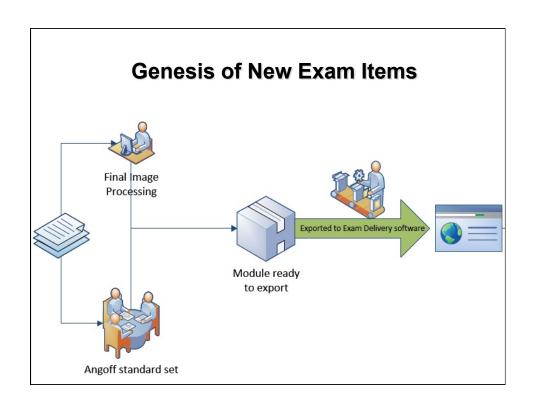


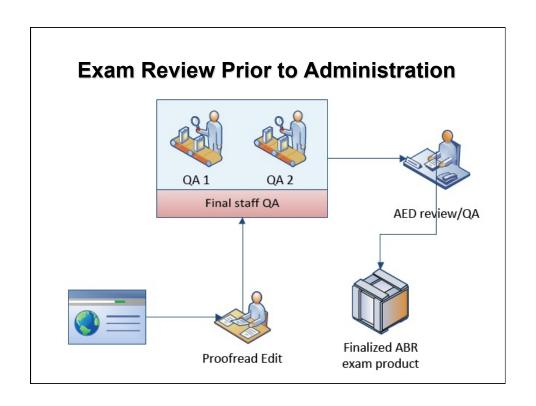
ABR exam items are written by volunteer committees of ~10 subject matter experts in various specialties of medical physics

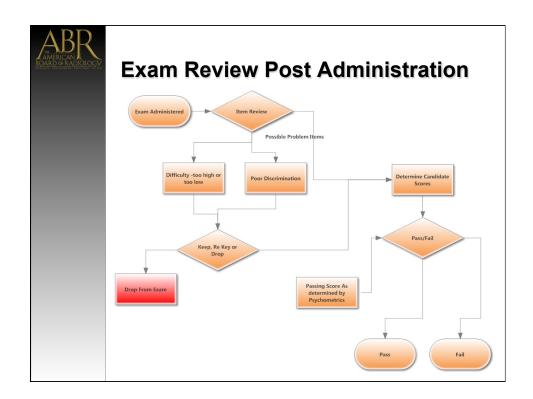
- Part 1 Examination
  - General
  - Clinical
- Part 2 Examination
  - · Medical Nuclear
  - · Diagnostic Medical
  - · Therapeutic Medical
- Oral Examination
  - · Medical Nuclear
  - · Diagnostic Medical
  - · Therapeutic Medical













#### Item Feedback:

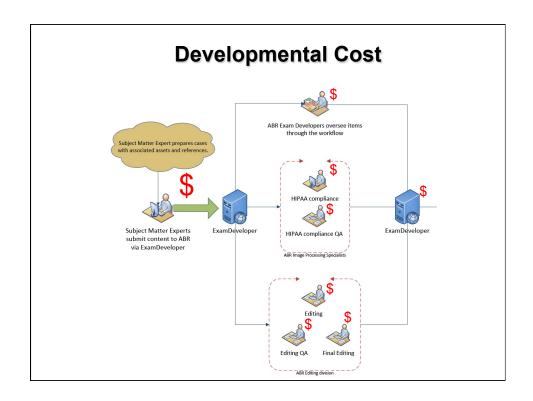
•Occasionally, candidates contact the AED or ABR physics trustees or ABR staff with concerns about a specific test item

Inquiries are handled by the AED, the trustees and content experts to resolve any issues



# Oral exam review processes

- Performance evaluations of each oral examiner
  - Any irregularities are addressed appropriately
- Performance evaluations of each oral exam panel
  - Oral exam panels have remarkably similar performance
- Feedback: Any candidate inquiries concerning the conduct of the oral exam are handled by the AED and the trustees to resolve any issues





# Developmental Cost

Clearly the most precious commodity in the creation of medical physics content of ABR certification exams is the participation of volunteer subject matter experts

~100 MP volunteers