

Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) Program 2009-2011 Pilot

NBME® Statement on Data Use

Programs that are interested in participating in the 2009-2011 APB Pilot should be aware of the NBME's policy on proper use of data associated with the APB.

For program leadership:

How can my program use APB data?

Data obtained from the APB surveys is to be used to assist observees in identifying areas of strength and needs for improvement. The data is to be used for developmental purposes only, and may not be used to make academic or employment decisions about participants.

Who will have access to the APB data generated by our program participants?

Individual feedback data will be available only to observees, the program administrator, and individuals serving as feedback providers. Aggregate program data will be made available only to the program administrator.

For program participants:

As a participant in the Assessment of Professional Behaviors (APB) Program, it is important that you understand why the survey data is being collected, who has access to the data and how the data will be used. The following are answers to frequently asked questions regarding participant data.

Why is this data being collected?

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) is conducting research using surveys as a tool to provide multisource feedback to individuals regarding their professional behaviors.

Who can access my data?

Your data can be accessed by you and your program administrators. Your institution will grant access to de-identified data to the NBME, to be used for research purposes.

As an observer, how is my data used?

Survey data provided by observers is collected by the NBME to create feedback reports and to inform research related to the APB program. In order to maintain the confidentiality of individual observers' responses, feedback reports will contain aggregated observer data only; feedback reports will not indicate individual observers' ratings. Free-text comments provided by observers will be presented, unedited, in feedback reports that are reviewed by the observee and his or her feedback facilitator. Observers are instructed to provide constructive and supportive comments, referring to specific events when possible, but are advised that the content of the comments could suggest the author's identity.

As an observee, how is my data used?

As part of a formative assessment program, the aggregated data provided in individual feedback forms will be used by you and your feedback facilitator to help identify your strengths and areas for improvement related to professional behaviors. In order to participate in this project, your institution must agree that the data will not be made part of your permanent record.

How will my institution or program use my data?

Data will be used to inform individuals of their observed professional behavior and to help formulate a plan for improvement. Your institution may also use survey data for educational research purposes.

How will the NBME use my data?

De-identified survey data will be used by the NBME for research purposes only.

If you participate in a focus group, interview, or think-aloud session related to your experience with the APB program, you will be asked to provide consent prior to participating, and all of your comments will remain confidential.

If you participate in online training associated with the APB program, any information you provide as part of that training will be used for APB program development and research purposes only.

Who should I contact if I have questions about how my data is used?

For more information, please contact your residency's or fellowship's Program Director.