

AAPM&R Policies Related to the Administration of the 2026 SAE-R Exam

This document provides information about the yearly SAE-R exam, including formal policies established by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Medical Education Committee. Follow the instructions listed below each policy for helpful information. E-mail any questions to saer@aapmr.org.

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Important Dates for the 2026 Exam

- **Registration Open: July 2025**
 - The registration fee is \$265 for resident members and \$355 for resident nonmembers.
 - Registration closes on November 18, 2025.

Academy membership is SEPARATE from SAE-R registration. To learn more about membership, [click here](#).

- **Final Registration Deadline: November 18, 2025.** This is the final deadline to:
 - Register residents.
 - Request a refund for registrant(s) not able to take the exam.
 - Make any changes to a residency program's registration, including program and resident information.

Any of the above requests made after this deadline may not be accommodated.

- **Exam Date: January 20 – January 26, 2025**
 - *The exam will be Internet-based, with paper books available only upon request, and have an administrative fee of an additional \$50 per resident.*
- **2026 Individual Resident Score Reports and Residency Program Score Reports will be distributed no later than April 15, 2026.**

Information about the SAE-R Exam

Mission

The Self-Assessment Committee (SAC) is part of the medical education program of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The mission of the SAC is to assist practitioners and residents in maintaining the highest standards of physiatric practice through self-assessment examination.

Goals/Purpose

The SAC produces annually a Self-Assessment Examination for Residents (SAE-R) covering residency competencies as well as overlying clinical issues that will

Assist residents by providing:

- An objective self-assessment examination for clarification of learners' needs.
- A comparison of the present level of performance of each resident with that of other residents throughout the country at a similar level of training.
- A stimulus for study.
- Practice in taking objective, written examinations and handling patient management problems.
- Year-to-year documentation of progress in accumulating knowledge in PM&R.

Assist program directors of participating residency training programs by providing:

- An indication of the training needs of residents in their programs.
- A comparison of the present level of performance of their residents with that of other residents throughout the country at a similar level of training.

Note: The SAE-R is not intended to be used as a primary tool for resident evaluation or a basis for promotion.

Exam Content

The SAE-R is designed to assist residents in identifying their strengths and weaknesses in the twelve content areas of physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) shown below.

Amputation, Prosthetics, and Gait

Brain Disorders

Electrodiagnosis

Medical Management

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Nerve and Muscle Disorders

Pain Rehabilitation

Pediatrics

Rehabilitation & Functional Management

Spasticity

Spinal Cord Injury

Stroke

The 2026 SAE-R has 150 multiple-choice questions and will be administered online with a three-hour time limit.

Disabilities

Examinees requesting exam accommodation must have a specific notation of the impairment as well as provide the specificity of the accommodation. The request must be submitted by December 9, 2025. These requests will be reviewed and tracked by the AAPM&R education

staff. At staff request, members of the Self-Assessment Examination Subcommittee may review the request.

Question Disputes

Disputed question(s) must be submitted in writing within one month after the administration of the examination. Examinees must submit the disputed question(s), where there are disputes and the reason for the dispute. Members of the Self-Assessment of Examination Subcommittee will review the dispute.

Please submit all question disputes regarding the SAE-R to saer@aapmr.org.

Future SAE-R Dates

2025: January 21 – January 27

If your program would like to participate, please contact saer@aapmr.org for more information.

Self-Assessment Committee Writers for the 2026 SAE-R

Sarah M Eickmeyer, MD – Chair

Brain Disorders

Electrodiagnosis

Pain Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation & Functional Management

Medical Management

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Nerve and Muscle Disorders

Pediatrics

Amputation, Prosthetics & Gait

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FAQs: Registration

1. After a residency program has completed online registration, can additional residents be registered?

Policy:

If a program needs to add resident(s), the program can register additional resident(s) as long as it is before the **final registration deadline (November 18, 2025)**. Requests made after this date cannot be accommodated.

Instruction:

E-mail saer@aapmr.org with details.

2. Are paper booklets available?

Yes, a program can request paper tests. The cost is \$50 per resident, in addition to the registration fee.

3. If a registered resident cannot take the exam, can a residency program replace them with a substitute?

Policy:

A residency program can replace a registered resident that cannot take the exam with a substitute as long as it is before the **final registration deadline**. Requests made after this date cannot be accommodated.

Please e-mail saer@aapmr.org to make substitutions.

4. Can the residency program register a resident who wants to take the exam but does not want to have their scores processed?

Policy:

Residents cannot take the exam without it being scored.

5. What is the SAE-R payment policy?

Payment Policy:

Payment of the SAE-R registration fees will only be accepted if received from the residency program institution - not individual residents. AAPM&R will send an e-mail confirmation once your payment and registration have been processed. Your institution is not considered registered until payment has been received and processed.

If your institution requires an invoice before submitting payment, you can request one.

See the **Important Dates for the 2026 Exam** section of this document for registration deadlines.

Instruction:

If paying by check, please mail one (1) check from the institution along with the residency program's registration summary form. If you opted to submit payment for the SAE-R exam fees along with resident membership dues, we will confirm registration details via e-mail.

If paying via credit card, fill out the credit card portion on the residency program's registration form and fax it to AAPM&R's secure fax line.

Mail Order Form to: AAPM&R, P.O. Box 95528, Chicago, IL 60694-5528
Fax Credit Card Payments to: (847) 563-4191 - secure fax line or call Member Services: (847) 737-6000.

Please note that all payment amounts must be in US dollars. Your program will be invoiced for any shortages of actual amounts due.

In the event this policy is not respected and individual resident checks are received, the Academy will refund all monies, and the residency program SAE-R registration will not be considered complete until full payment from the residency program is received. The Academy will not make accommodations for missed registration deadlines as a result of improper adherence to the SAE-R payment policy.

FAQs: Administration

6. What are the technical requirements for the online exam platform?

The 2025 SAE-R will be Internet-based, administered online via Meazure Learning, the Academy's testing partner. **Paper tests are available upon request but have an administrative fee of an additional \$50 per resident.**

The Meazure Learning Proctor Manual with details about system requirements and instructions for administering the online exam will be distributed in December.

7. Can a residency program administer the SAE-R on an alternative DATE other than the published exam dates to either the entire program or an individual resident?

Policy:

Exam dates are scheduled and advertised far enough in advance to give residency programs ample time to coordinate clinicals, didactic sessions, etc., around the exam time frame. We expanded the official testing window to six days in order to facilitate computer lab availability and accommodate program and resident schedules.

Testing outside of the stated six-day window is not permitted.

8. Can a residency program administer the SAE-R exam to an individual resident at an alternative TIME other than the established time it is being administered to the entire program?

Policy:

The Academy will allow programs to administer the test in separate sittings if the institution's computer lab cannot accommodate the group in one sitting. Individual residents can also take the exam at an earlier or later time if there is a special circumstance.

Instruction:

The administration must be proctored.

9. Can a program receive a refund if a resident is unable to take the exam?

Policy:

If a program notifies the Academy that a resident is unable to take the exam PRIOR to the **Final Registration Deadline**, the program will be refunded the registration amount for that resident.

If the program notifies the Academy after the Final Registration Deadline, the program will not be eligible for a refund for residents unable to take the exam.

If you have any questions, please e-mail saer@aapmr.org.

10. Can the residency coordinator proctor the exam instead of the program director?

Policy:

The exam must be administered in a closed book, monitored testing situation. It is acceptable for a residency coordinator to proctor the exam.