



Essentials in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (EMIGS) FAQs for Residents

OVERVIEW

What is EMIGS?

EMIGS is a Gyn-specific comprehensive Training and Testing program. EMIGS is comprised of a validated Cognitive examination, an accompanying web-based Didactic component, and a validated Manual skills examination of laparoscopic exercises (5) specific to gynecologic surgery using a LaparoBowl; a dedicated platform that is placed inside a standard laparoscopic trainer, simulating the pelvic cavity.

The goal is to provide residents, fellows, and practicing physicians an opportunity to learn the essentials of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery using structured, standardized, and validated methods; and to test the basic knowledge and manual skills, with the ultimate goal of elevating Gyn surgical training and improving the quality of patient care.

What is on the EMIGS exam?

The exam includes two assessments: a computer-based multiple-choice cognitive assessment and a performance-based manual skills assessment consisting of five-skills performed on a standardized Laparoscopic Trainer Box. Those who successfully complete both components will have demonstrated the knowledge, judgement, and technical skills essentials of the performance of basic endoscopic skills.

Who is eligible to take the EMIGS exam?

The EMIGS certification is available to all OB/GYN residents.

REGISTRATION

How much does EMIGS cost?

The entire EMIGS experience, including the Didactic content, the Cognitive & the Manual Skills exams will cost \$525.

The cost of retaking the Cognitive exam is \$150 and the cost of retaking the Manual Skills exam is \$225. Please refer to the EMIGS Terms and Conditions for more information.

How long does didactic access last? 3 years

How long do I have to take the Skills or Cognitive test? 3 years

Purchase Order or Check Payments – We currently do not accept PO or checks but will be adding that option soon.

I tried to register but my program is not listed in the dropdown. Please complete the following form to be added.

Complete form.

My name is not listed as the program director or coordinator how can I update this?

Complete form.

DIDACTICS, COGNITIVE & SKILLS

What is the EMIGS didactic curriculum?

Included in the EMIGS Program, EMIGS offers web-based didactic content, including 81 narrated video lectures covering 12 in-depth modules on the essentials of minimally invasive surgery, such as anatomy, electrosurgery, surgical planning, decision-making, complications, etc. The didactic program is designed to help you better understand and learn the essentials of endoscopic surgery and the minimum standards for cognitive and technical principles used in performing minimally invasive gynecologic surgical procedures. The didactic content does not have an exam.

What is covered in the EMIGS manual skills assessment?

The manual skills assessment consists of the five simulation exercises reflecting skills uniquely required in laparoscopic surgery including: sleeve-peg transfer; pattern cut; extracorporeal knot tying; intracorporeal knot tying; and vaginal cuff continuous running suture. Each task performance is scored on both precision (accuracy) and efficiency (time).

What is the Cognitive assessment?

The cognitive assessment consists of multiple-choice questions, some of which include visuals and clinical scenarios. It is computer-based and designed to test the understanding and application of the essentials of endoscopic surgery with as much emphasis as possible on clinical judgement and intra-operative decision-making.

ABOG REQUIREMENTS

Why is ABOG requiring Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB GYN) Residents to take EMIGS to be eligible for certification?

Requiring completion of EMIGS is part of a broader initiative by ABOG to incorporate simulation and standardize the knowledge and training completed by OB GYN residents. It also establishes an additional objective measure that all U.S. Obstetricians and Gynecologists applying for primary specialty certification must meet. ABOG's goal is to assure OB GYN residents an opportunity to learn the essentials of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery in a consistent, scientifically accepted format, and to test cognitive, surgical decision-making and technical skills, all with the goal of improving the quality of patient care.

When does this requirement take effect?

The requirement to pass a manual skills assessment was announced in January 2018 for all physicians graduating from residency after May 31, 2020. In May 2022, ABOG approved EMIGS as an alternative to meet the standard for board eligibility. This requirement does not apply to candidates who graduated in prior academic years.

Do I have to complete EMIGS before I apply for the Qualifying Exam?

Candidates who are unable to complete EMIGS prior to the 2023 Qualifying Examination (QE) may still take the exam. However, residency graduates who pass the 2023 Qualifying Examination will be required to provide documentation of EMIGS certification to become active candidates for the Certifying Exam. This means that these physicians must achieve EMIGS certification to be eligible to move forward as an Active Candidate for OB-GYN certification.

When does a candidate have to take EMIGS, and what does ABOG need for verification?

Candidates can take EMIGS at any time during residency, but the ideal time may be during the second year as residents are gaining more exposure to laparoscopy. Residents may apply, take and receive their results for the QE regardless of where they are in their EMIGS certification process. Residents may apply for the QE without verification of EMIGS registration or completion of the EMIGS program.

Residency graduates who pass the 2023 Qualifying Examination will be required to provide documentation of EMIGS certification to become active candidates for the Certifying Exam.

My residency already requires training in EMIGS without requiring the examination. Will this meet the ABOG requirement for certification?

No, to meet the certification requirement, you must take and pass both parts of the EMIGS exam and receive the certificate.

TESTING**Can I take the EMIGS exam again?**

If you fail one or both parts of the assessment, you must retake whatever part was not completed successfully.

Where do I take EMIGS?

Both the cognitive and manual skills portion of EMIGS will be completed online and proctored virtually by a real-time virtual proctor, without the need for travel to a physical testing center.

How much time will it take to complete the EMIGS exam?

You will have 120 minutes to complete the multiple-choice cognitive assessment. The manual skills assessment includes five designated skills administered on the Trainer Box and lasts approximately 60 – 90 minutes. Both are administered virtually by a real-time, trained EMIGS online proctor.

How do I practice the skills for the EMIGS test?

To practice the manual skills needed for the EMIGS examination, you will need to use the EMIGS LaparoBowl and a Trainer Box. At least one LaparoBowl is made available at no cost to each residency program in the US. If you are a participating ACGME Residency program

and have not signed up, please sign up here. Instructional videos are available online upon registration for the exam. To order additional LaparoBowls and consumables, please go to Inovus Medical at <https://aagl.inovus.org>

When will I receive my EMIGS exam score?

Scores for Cognitive Exams will be provided upon completion of the exam. Results from the EMIGS Skills examination will be e-mailed approximately six weeks after the candidate completes the exam. For privacy reasons, scores will not be transmitted by telephone or facsimile. Those who successfully complete both the educational and assessment components will receive a certification of completion confirming that they have demonstrated the knowledge, judgement, and technical skills essential for the performance of basic laparoscopic surgery.

Does my EMIGS certificate expire?

EMIGS Certification does not expire.

SUPPORT

Where do I direct my questions regarding EMIGS?

For questions about the EMIGS Program please email: support@emigs.aagl.org

For questions regarding OB/GYN certification requirements, please email ABOG at exams@abog.org.