



Accommodation Request for Pregnant and/or Lactating Candidates

This form is specific to examinations taken at Pearson VUE centers. Please **do not** use this form to request accommodations for a virtual Certifying Examination (CE)¹ nor to request accommodations for an ABS In-Training Examination (ITE)². All requests must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the applicant’s exam date. Requests received less than 30 days prior to the exam date will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The accommodation must be approved **prior** to scheduling a Pearson VUE exam center. Scheduling a center without prior approval will result in an examination appointment *without accommodations*.

The General Surgery Qualifying Examination (GSQE) and the Vascular Surgery Qualifying Examination (VSQE) will start with a bank of 70 minutes of break time.

The Pediatric Surgery Qualifying Examination (PSQE), the Complex General Surgical Oncology Qualifying Examination (CGSO QE), and Surgical Critical Care Certifying Examination (SCC CE) will start with a bank of 20 minutes of break time.

The Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Focused Practice Designation Examination (MBS FPD Exam) and the Adult Complex Thyroid and Parathyroid Focused Practice Designation Examination (ACTPS FPD Exam) each include one scheduled break of 10 minutes.

Section A: Personal Information	Please complete the following:
	First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ ABS ID: _____ Current Phone Number: _____ Current Email Address: _____
Section B: Exam Information	
	Exam Name: _____
Section C: Accommodations of Additional Break Time Offered for Lactating Candidates	
<p>An additional 60 minutes of break time will be added to the break bank (130 minutes of total break time) for the GSQE and VSQE.</p> <p>An additional 30 minutes of break time will be added to the break bank (50 total minutes of break time) for the PSQE, CGSO QE, and SCC CE.</p> <p>An additional 30 minutes of break time will be added to the break (40 total minutes of break time) for the MBS FPD Exam and the ACTPS FPD Exam.</p> <p>Upon check-in at the Pearson center, you must inform the test center staff that you are approved for a lactation accommodation. The test center administrator will assist you with reserving the private venue to pump. Pearson center staff will not interrupt the exam to remind you of your scheduled time for accessing the private venue. You are responsible for accessing the private venue at your reserved time.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a lactating candidate and wish to request an additional break time accommodation.³</p>	
Section D: Accommodations Offered for Pregnant Candidates	
Frequent Break Accommodation	
<p>An additional 60 minutes of additional exam time will be added to allow examinees to take breaks during the examination sessions.</p> <p>For an eight-hour exam such as the GSQE, this allows for approximately 15 minutes of additional exam time in each of the four exam sessions to offset frequent breaks taken during an exam session.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a pregnant candidate and wish to request a frequent break accommodation.^{3/4} <i>60 mins of additional exam time/breaks taken during exam sessions</i></p>	
Access to Medication Accommodation	
<p>Examinees will be permitted to access necessary medication during the examination. These individuals must specify whether the medication is needed in the exam room or will be stored in a locker and what form the medication is in.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a pregnant candidate and wish to request an access to medication⁵ accommodation.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> The medication is tablet form and can be exposed to air.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> The medication is in liquid form.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a pregnant candidate and wish to request access to hard candy⁶ during the examination.</p> <p>My medication will be kept:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> On my person in the exam room.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In a locker outside of the exam room.</p> <p>Candidates who are exclusively breastfeeding, please email accommodations@absurgery.org.</p>	

Private space at the Pearson VUE center is provided on a first come, first served basis and is subject to center availability. This may require a candidate to travel to a more distant center with an available private space.

If your approved Pregnant Candidate accommodation needs to change to a Lactation accommodation, you must notify the ABS via email as soon as possible. Pearson views these accommodations as different, not interchangeable, and as such your accommodation must be updated prior to your scheduled exam appointment.

¹ An accommodation request for additional exam time or additional break time during a virtual CE will necessitate the administration of the examination **outside** of the usual delivery and **outside** of posted dates for that exam. **The exam date and time will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis accounting for both candidate and examiner schedules.** Candidates requesting an accommodation on the CE must email their request to accommodations@absurgery.org.

² Accommodations on an ABS ITE are at the individual program’s discretion.

³ Per Pearson VUE policy, candidates may either have additional exam time **OR** additional break time, **NOT** both. If requesting a lactation and/or pregnancy accommodation, individuals must consider whether additional exam time **OR** additional break time is needed.

⁴ A frequent break accommodation permits the candidate to take breaks during an exam session; exam time will continue to elapse when a break is taken during an exam session. The additional hour of exam time is intended to offset frequent breaks taken during an exam session.

⁵ Medication in tablet form is permitted in the exam room. Individuals must show the medication to the proctor upon check-in. The proctor will provide the examinee with a tissue on which to place the medication.

⁶ Hard candy is permitted in the exam room and must be shown to the proctor upon check-in.