

2025 Doctor's Dilemma

Eligibility:

All team members must be active ACP Resident/Fellow Members. All players must register for the meeting.

First round: Elimination

The first round is split between 3 rooms. The winning team from each room will move forward to the final round.

Second round: Final

The second round will be 3 teams competing. The winner will move forward to the PA-ACP Annual Scientific Meeting on November 15th to compete against the winners of the other regions.

The winner at the Annual Scientific Meeting will move forward to the National Meeting in San Francisco in the spring of 2026.

Arrival:

Teams should be checked in before the opening remarks. The agenda can be found on the PA-ACP website.

Game:

Each team will have 3 players. The game will be projected on a screen. Once the teams are seated, the moderator will welcome participants and invite them to introduce themselves. The moderator will then summarize competition rules, and the game categories will be displayed. Each game consists of five categories with five questions in each, for a total of 25 questions plus one final dilemma question.

Before the start of each game, the team selecting the first category will be chosen at random. The moderator will announce the team selected to choose the first category.

Answering Questions:

Once a team selects a question by category and amount, the moderator reads the question.

*IT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE MODERATOR TO READ THE QUESTION ENTIRELY BEFORE A TEAM CAN BUZZ IN. If you buzz in before the moderator completes the question, you will be blocked from answering and points will be deducted.

Once the question is read and revealed on the game board screen, any team can buzz in to answer. The team that buzzes in first is recognized by the software, and that team will be identified by the game assistant. Participants may not answer until their team is identified. That 3 team has 15 seconds to answer. Teams answering correctly retain control of the game board and select the next question. If a team answers incorrectly, the game board grays out that team's name and the point value of that question is deducted from the team's score. The screen will reset to allow remaining teams to buzz in. All remaining teams have 10 seconds to answer the question. This process continues until the correct answer is given, all teams answer incorrectly, or time runs out. The game assistant will call "time" when 10 seconds has elapsed if no team buzzes in. While software malfunctions are rare, the moderator has the authority to take corrective action caused by game software or any procedural errors. In the rare event when the software malfunctions in recognizing the team that buzzes in first, the moderator will call on the team first recognized as buzzing in; if that team answers incorrectly, the second team recognized by the software will have the opportunity to answer the question before it is opened to other teams.

Final Dilemma:

After the 25-question game board has been played, teams with positive point values are invited to play the “Final Dilemma” question, which is a wager-based question. Each team is given a wager sheet and a final answer sheet. When the “Final Dilemma” category is announced, teams write down their wager, which can be up to the number of points the team has entering Final Dilemma. Wager sheets are then collected by a game assistant. After the moderator reads the question and the question is displayed, teams have approximately 35 seconds to write an answer on the final answer sheet. After 35 seconds, the answer sheets are collected by a game assistant and given to the moderator. Teams answering the questions correctly will have their wager added to their total score. Teams answering incorrectly will have their wager deducted from their total score.

Game Judge:

Each Doctor’s Dilemma game will be monitored by a judge who is an ACP member with substantial medical knowledge. Judges will receive the game questions and answers in advance so they are familiar with the content and able to make informed decisions during the game.

If a team’s answer does not exactly match the acceptable answers provided to the moderator on the official answer sheet, the moderator may defer to the game judges. The judges determine if an answer is acceptable. **The judges’ decisions are final.**

Professionalism and Sportsmanship:

Each team invests considerable effort into preparing for this competition and is eager to show their knowledge and excel in the competition. It is important for each team member to always demonstrate civility and professionalism throughout the competition.

Participation in the competition is an honor, and all contestants are expected to treat it as such. The Doctor’s Dilemma competition requires all participants and the programs they represent to adhere to high standards of professionalism and conduct, consistent with the expectations of an internal medicine physician. All team members should demonstrate good sportsmanship and avoid any impropriety (or the appearance of impropriety). To ensure this, all participants in the competition must follow these conduct guidelines:

- Demonstrate respect and civility to fellow participants, moderators, judges, volunteers, and staff throughout the competition.
- No cell phones, flash cards, laptops, or other devices or papers are permitted on the stage during the competition.
- Contestants and program representatives are not permitted to ask for judges to rule on a question or answer, nor may they refer a question/answer to the judges. Questions/answers are referred to the judges at the sole discretion of the moderator.
- Refrain from challenging a ruling or answer during the competition. Contestants and members of their program may not approach or challenge a judge, moderator, or a ruling during the competition.

If participants, or members of their program, fail to comport with these standards, or demonstrate other unprofessional or unsportsmanlike behavior, the involved individuals and/or team may be disqualified from the competition. Judges may disqualify any team for exhibiting poor sportsmanship or unprofessionalism during the competition. **All judges’ decisions are final.**

Video recording of the competition is not permitted.