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## **USMLE Statement on Coalition for Physician Accountability’s UME-to-GME Committee (UGRC) Final Recommendations**

September 22, 2021 - The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and NBME®, co-sponsors of the United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®), released the following statement in response to the Coalition for Physician Accountability’s Undergraduate Medical Education to Graduate Medical Education Review Committee’s (UGRC) [final recommendations](#) for improving the transition from medical school to residency:

“The USMLE program commends the Coalition for Physician Accountability’s UGRC for their extensive efforts to study and address the incredibly complex and challenging issue of medical student transition to residency. As members of the Coalition, the USMLE parent organizations, FSMB and NBME, were pleased to support this important work.

Both FSMB and NBME thoughtfully reflected on USMLE’s role within the system’s transition to residency and worked diligently to address the challenges over the past five years. In 2017, we convened the [Invitational Conference on USMLE Scoring \(InCUS\)](#) to address the issue of overemphasis of USMLE scores, which were being used for the secondary purpose of residency selection. This group produced recommendations that included a call for the forming of the Coalition’s UGRC and prompted a national conversation around ways to improve the transition. The USMLE program is very proud to have jumpstarted that conversation and called for urgent action toward systemwide change.

The upcoming change of USMLE Step 1 to Pass/Fail only score reporting on January 26, 2022, is intended to help reduce some of the current overemphasis on USMLE performance in the residency selection screening process, while also retaining the ability

(continued)

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of medical licensing authorities to use the exam for its primary purpose of medical licensure eligibility.

We appreciate the UGRC for recommending less reliance on USMLE scores for residency selection. However, we believe that UGRC recommendation #18 is inconsistent with this position by supporting filtering of candidates by score outcomes. This filtering contributes to the overweighting of licensing exam scores and is a continuation of current unintended impacts that occur when scores are used for secondary purposes, which InCUS sought to mitigate.

The USMLE program is committed to working together with organizations and institutions across the house of medicine to further explore ways to improve the transition from medical school to residency for all involved.

### **About United States Medical Licensing Examination<sup>®</sup> (USMLE<sup>®</sup>)**

USMLE is a three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States and is sponsored by the [Federation of State Medical Boards \(FSMB\)](#) and [NBME](#).

USMLE provides licensing authorities meaningful information from assessments of physician competencies – including medical knowledge, communication and other clinical skills - that are important to the provision of safe and effective patient care. The program follows professional testing standards to provide fairness and equity to examinees, while providing important information to medical regulation and medical education.

The USMLE program engages medical educators and their institutions, licensing authority members, examinee leaders, and practicing clinicians in the design, development and continuous improvement of these assessments. To learn more about USMLE, visit [www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org).