UPCOMING POLICY CHANGES

This Bulletin reflects information and requirements available at the time of publication (September 30, 2020). As announced on February 12, 2020, the USMLE program will be implementing several policy changes that will impact USMLE eligibility and the information contained in this Bulletin. Firm implementation dates for these policy changes have not yet been announced. Therefore, it is your responsibility to monitor the Announcements page on the USMLE website for the most up-to-date information regarding the implementation of these policy changes as it may impact your ability to take or apply for a USMLE Step.

The changes include:

- Changing Step 1 score reporting from a three-digit numeric score to reporting only pass/fail; and
- Reducing the allowable number of exam attempts on each Step or Step Component from six to four

These new policies will continue to enable the USMLE program to provide high-quality assessments for the primary user of exam results (state medical boards) while also addressing other considerations, such as exam security and unintended consequences of secondary score uses. The secondary uses of Step 1 scores for residency screening have been the focus of extensive discussion at the FSMB and NBME, within the USMLE program, and with multiple stakeholders within the broader medical education and regulatory communities.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USMLE program expanded testing capacity through the introduction of alternate test delivery options (regional and event testing) during 2020. Should the need for alternate test delivery options continue into 2021, updates will be provided on the USMLE website. It is your responsibility to review the Announcements page for the most up-to-date information regarding exam status. You can also check the Frequently Asked Questions page for quick answers to your questions.

Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)

Given the examination format of Step 2 CS, which required close proximity of examinee to standardized patients, as well as in many cases, domestic and international examinee travel, the USMLE program has suspended the Step 2 CS examination until at least June 2021. The primary reason for this suspension is aimed at protecting the health of examinees as well as test center staff. It is your responsibility to review the Announcements page for the most up-to-date information regarding the status of clinical skills assessment in USMLE. You should also check the Frequently Asked Questions page for Step 2 CS policy issues pertaining to licensure and transcripts.

Please continue to monitor the USMLE Announcements page and the COVID-19 Resource Center. You can also follow USMLE social media (Facebook and Twitter) for updates.