NYU WINTHROP HOSPITAL
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICY: USMLE/COMLEX REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Scope: All residents and fellows participating in NYU Winthrop Hospital (NYUWH) graduate medical education training programs (i.e., residencies or fellowships).

I. PURPOSE

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) assesses a physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles, and to demonstrate fundamental patient-centered skills, that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. Each of the three Steps of the USMLE complements the others; no Step can stand alone in the assessment of readiness for medical licensure.

In the United States and its territories, the individual medical licensing authorities ("state medical boards") of the various jurisdictions grant a license to practice medicine. Each medical licensing authority sets its own rules and regulations and requires passing an examination that demonstrates qualification for licensure. Results of the USMLE are reported to these authorities for use in granting the initial license to practice medicine. The USMLE provides them with a common evaluation system for applicants for initial medical licensure.

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) serves as the equivalent examination for residents who completed osteopathic training in the United States, and the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) serves as the equivalent examination for residents who completed medical training in Canada.

II. POLICY

Examination Requirements:
To meet appropriate educational standards and national quality standards in preparation for licensure and certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties, trainees must successfully pass one of the following examinations:
- USMLE or COMLEX Steps 1 and Step 2 CS prior to entering training in any NYUWH residency program.
- USMLE or COMLEX Step 2 CK within 6 months of commencement of training in any NYUWH residency program
- USMLE or COMLEX Step 3 prior to starting their PGY-3 year.
- Trainees entering a NYUWH program after their PGY-3 year and all fellows must pass Step 3 prior to commencement of training.

Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE):
- Part 2 must be completed prior to starting the PGY-3 year.
- Graduates of Canadian medical schools must pass Steps 1 and 2 of the MCCQE.
All appointments and promotions are subject to fulfillment of these requirements. Residents and fellows must fulfill these requirements in order to be considered in good academic standing in the program. For the Step 2 CK, failure to satisfy these requirements will result in automatic suspension for a period of not more than three (3) months, at which time lack of compliance will result in termination from the program. Failure to pass Step 3 by the end of the PGY-2 year will result in termination from the program.

Individual training programs may institute more restrictive policies/deadlines for trainees.

Procedures:

Residents and fellows are responsible for registering for the appropriate exam, payment of all exam fees, and for reviewing the examination timelines to ensure their results will be available by the appropriate deadline.

Programs are responsible for making reasonable accommodation (e.g., during approved rotations) for trainees to schedule time away from the program to take the exams, and for providing appropriate clinical coverage during such absences.

Proof of passing examination scores must be provided by trainees to their training program, and USMLE test score results will be recorded in the Test Scores section in New Innovations.

The Director of Graduate Medical Education (DIO) may grant individual exceptions to the policy for a defined period of time if requested and justified by the program director and chair.

Approved by the GMEC: 6/6/16