

Fisher, Alexander

From: David Johnson (FSMB) <DJohnson@fsmb.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 11:48 AM
To: David Johnson (FSMB)
Subject: predictive validity research supporting USMLE
Attachments: Relevant USMLE research supporting the validity of licensing decisions v final.docx; article 1 USMLE and patient outcomes 2024.pdf; article 2 USMLE and patient outcomes 2014.pdf; article 3 USMLE and SMB disc actions 2017.pdf; article 4 USMLE and SMB disc actions 2022.pdf; article 5 USMLE attempts and SMB disc actions 2021.pdf; article 6 USMLE and ACGME milestones 2021.pdf

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Executive Directors
State Medical and Osteopathic Boards

Since its introduction in 1992, the United States Medical Licensing Examination[®] (USMLE[®]) has provided the medical licensing community with a high-quality assessment tool ensuring that licensed physicians are held to a rigorous and reliable standard. Passing USMLE Step 1, 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK), and 3 ensures that physicians have demonstrated they understand and can apply medical knowledge and clinical reasoning to provide safe and effective patient care.

USMLE has administered more than three million Step administrations since 1992—providing much of the groundwork for an extensive research program that continues to produce numerous peer-reviewed contributions to the professional literature of medical licensing, education and training.

Staff at NBME and FSMB working on the USMLE program have assembled a collection of key recent articles evaluating the predictive validity of USMLE. Predictive validity involves studying how the exam scores are associated with relevant future outcomes and thus can provide strong evidence that the exam truly measures competencies related to safe and effective practice. Extensive research has focused on USMLE performance and its correlation with other key measures, such as performance on other professional assessments, residency outcomes, disciplinary actions by state medical boards, and, most importantly, patient outcomes.

These studies augment the validity evidence from the rigorous exam development, scoring, and standard setting practices that collectively support the validity of licensing decisions informed,

in part, by requiring successful completion of USMLE Steps 1, 2 and 3. These key articles are shared in their entirety or with citation and brief summary. Note: The appendix in the attached Word document provides links to the online versions of these articles.

Our intent is to share relevant literature supporting medical boards' continued utilization of the USMLE as the primary assessment tool in the decision to issue a full, unrestricted medical license. Please feel free to share any or all of these materials as you deem appropriate to staff and/or your board members. Questions about these studies or interpretations of this data may be directed to Daniel Jurich, PhD, NBME Associate Vice President for USMLE.

Sincerely,

David Johnson, MA
FSMB Chief Assessment Officer

Alex J. Mechaber, MD, MBA
NBME Vice President for USMLE

