2024-01-04: Why Do We Need Three Licensing Exams in the US?

The following links were shared during the chat:

- United States Medical Licensing Exam https://www.usmle.org/about-usmle
- Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing https://www.ncme.org/resources-publications/books/testing-standards

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MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat 9 hours ago
TOPIC 1. What is the benefit to the US #medstudent to have 3 #USMLE licensure exams? What is the benefit to training programs? What is the benefit to the state issuing the license? #MedEdChat #meded https://t.co/DNr5nIoi6c

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Deb Simpson @debsimpson3 9 hours ago
@GLBDallaghan Deb here from MKE for a bit. Happy new year all!! #MedEdChat

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Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd 9 hours ago
For those unfamiliar with the US licensing process, you can read more about it on the USMLE website https://t.co/RPyKKzXjFI #MedEdChat

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Alliance4ClinEd @Alliance4ClinEd 9 hours ago
T1 According to USMLE site, for states this is their stated mission: To provide to licensing authorities meaningful information from assessments of physician characteristics-including knowledge, skills, values, & attitudes important for safe and effective patient care. #MedEdChat

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Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 9 hours ago
@Alliance4ClinEd T1 That site also says: To assure fairness and equity to physicians through the highest professional testing standards...which could be questioned given some biases in scoring that have been reported #MedEdChat

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Deb Simpson @debsimpson3 9 hours ago
T1 It's a puzzling - typically measurement peeps say the more assessments the better - yet the relationships of these measurements to actually clinical performance remains low. This what is its real value for learners, schools, #GME and patients. #MedEdChat

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Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 9 hours ago
@debsimpson3 T1 Exactly. Honestly, the value for students is truly questionable given the cost of the exams. #MedEdChat

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Arthur Ollendorff @Ollendorff 9 hours ago
T1 Three parts is consistent the traditional view of med Ed (basic science, clerkship, post-clerkship). #MedEdChat

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MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat 9 hours ago
TOPIC 2. If a single examination offered after graduation were proposed, what would be the benefits to the #medstudents and the state? Would training programs suffer in any way? #MedEdChat #meded https://t.co/FY8C2z03xt

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 9 hours ago
@Ollendorff T1 But we're not actually traditional with #meded these days. The exams themselves don't even follow that as Step 1 is much more clinically oriented. #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 9 hours ago
T2 I remember when this idea was tossed around years ago. It seemed that the logistics of every state changing their laws was a big reason this fell out of favor. Many other reasons I'm sure contributed to it not happening...but it is a different time. #MedEdChat

Deb Simpson @debsimpson3 9 hours ago
T2 what is the purpose of these exams - metrics to measure performance at key transition times. Ok. Rather than after graduation - I wonder if all med students take 1st USMLE exam 9-12 months before graduation to avoid gamesmanship of schools. Control this variable. #MedEdChat

Arthur Ollendorff @Ollendorff 9 hours ago
T2 A high stakes exam taken during residency would be disruptive to the residency education process. The focus on that exam (and the expectation for protected study time) would be similar to what we see with step 1. #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 9 hours ago
@debsimpson3 T2 Great idea. I actually suggested they take it before medical school so we could really focus on learning and not test prep. There were several that did not like that idea :) #MedEdChat

MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat 8 hours ago
TOPIC 3. What would be the pitfalls or potential unintended consequences of a single examination? #MedEdChat #meded https://t.co/NqfwQlaRxN

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 8 hours ago
@Ollendorff T2 Maybe not needed during residency. The time spent between January and Match Day could be the testing period. That way it would be done by graduation and ready for intern year. #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 8 hours ago
T3 Although I hate to admit it, one exam would seriously impede on good metrics for #meded program evaluation. The exams are a good metric to gauge how the curriculum is going. One exam could be used, but not as much as three #MedEdChat

Arthur Ollendorff @Ollendorff 8 hours ago
T3 - Even with limitations of standardized test, it would be a good to know that a student has sufficient knowledge of phase 1 before progressing to clinical work. #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 8 hours ago
T3 Another pitfall to one exam is if the first attempt is unsuccessful it could negatively impact residency training #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 8 hours ago
T4 Fully endorse this idea of them all being pass-fail. They're normed exams with a defined cut point & should be reported as pass or fail. Not a popular opinion....but still think it should be #MedEdChat

Gary Beck Dallaghan @GLBDallaghan 8 hours ago
@Ollendorff #MedEdChat I agree with you there. It is another unintended consequence. But let's think about how much disruption Steps 1 and 2CK already cause #meded Those months could now be the sole spot and transition to residency courses happen after the Match.

MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat 8 hours ago
We have about 5 more minutes left in our discussion. Please feel free to give some final thoughts #meded #MedEdChat

MedEd Chat (hosted by ACE) @MedEdChat 8 hours ago
Join us the 1st Thursday next month at 9 PM ET/NYC Thursday. Don't forget to suggest topics by DM or email #meded #MedEdChat

SimAware @sim_aware 8 hours ago
@MedEdChat A3. Not having scores moved the filter to an earlier exam that did have scores. If residencies use arbitrary cut offs like this now to make to pool "manageable", the new bias could be worse. #MedEdChat #meded

Mohan lal Sharma @Mohanla171405802 hours ago

isme bhaise ka kya logic hai??   #MedEdChat https://t.co/EtKpwUTFe0

The #MedEdChat Influencers

Top 10 Influential

@Ollendorff 100

@debsimpson3 97

@Alliance4ClinEd 91

@GLBDallaghan 25

@MedEdChat 2

@sim_aware 0

Prolific Tweeters

@GLBDallaghan 10

@MedEdChat 5

@Ollendorff 3

@debsimpson3 3

@Alliance4ClinEd 2

@sim_aware 1

@Mohanla17140580 1

Highest Impressions

@MedEdChat 49.1K

@GLBDallaghan 20.6K

@debsimpson3 3.4K

@sim_aware 2.6K

@Alliance4ClinEd 1.7K

@Ollendorff 612.0

@Mohanla17140580 12.0

The Numbers

77.954K Impressions

26 Tweets

8 Participants

3 Avg Tweets/Hour

3 Avg Tweets/Participant

Twitter data from the #MedEdChat hashtag from Thu, January 4th 2024, 8:05PM to Fri, January 5th 2024, 4:55AM (America/Chicago) – Symplur.