

COMLEX-USA MASTER BLUEPRINT

TWO DISTINCT DIMENSIONS AND DECISION POINTS

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) is the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians seeking to practice medicine and surgery. It is the principal means by which the NBOME delivers on its mission to protect the public by providing assessment of competencies for osteopathic physicians and related health care professions.

In response to substantive changes in the evolution of osteopathic medical practice, and to ensure COMLEX-USA remains current in meeting the needs of state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards and other stakeholders, the NBOME Board of Directors commissioned a five-year, comprehensive review of the examination series by its esteemed Blue Ribbon Panel, resulting in a new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint, which is targeted for implementation in 2018-2019.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was charged with considering the primary use (licensure) and important secondary uses (undergraduate and graduate medical education) of the COMLEX-USA examination series. Comprised of highly renowned experts representing the fields of medical education, physician licensure and clinical assessment, the panel conducted a comprehensive review of the examination series and

explored enhancements to its redesign. A major component in this redesign was the evidence-based development of a new examination blueprint. In 2016, the NBOME Board of Directors approved the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019.

The two dimensions of the new blueprint include Competency Domains and Clinical Presentations.

COMPETENCY DOMAINS are related sets of foundational abilities representing the required elements and outcomes that define the knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes, values, behaviors and established professional standards. They constitute a general descriptive framework for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Required elements articulate the essential foundational specifications, including specific, definable knowledge, skills, experiences, attitudes, values and/or behaviors which make up the standards for the competency domain. Measured outcomes, as defined in *FOMCD 2016*, can be directly assessed in a reliable manner in the assessments that comprise the COMLEX-USA examination program and will contribute substantially to the enhanced COMLEX-USA examination program targeted for implementation in 2018-2019.

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS represent the manner in which a particular patient, group of patients or community present(s) to osteopathic physicians. They are high-frequency, high-impact categories based on evidence from osteopathic medical practice, and are further categorized as topics.

FOUNDATION FOR BOTH DIMENSIONS IN COMLEX-USA

The foundation of COMLEX-USA and both dimensions continues to be osteopathic principles and practice, specifically:

- The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.
- The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.
- Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of the basic principles of body unity, self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function.

COMPETENCY DOMAINS - DIMENSION 1	MINIMUM
Osteopathic Principles, Practice, and Manipulative Treatment	10%
Osteopathic Patient Care and Procedural Skills	25%
Application of Knowledge for Osteopathic Medical Practice	30%
Practice-Based Learning and Improvement in Osteopathic Medical Practice	5%
Interpersonal and Communication Skills in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	10%
Professionalism in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	5%
Systems-Based Practice in Osteopathic Medicine	5%

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS - DIMENSION 2	MINIMUM	
Community Health & Presentations related to Wellness	12%	
Patient Presentations related to:	Human Development, Reproduction & Sexuality	5%
	Endocrine System & Metabolism	5%
	Nervous System & Mental Health	10%
	Musculoskeletal System	13%
	Genitourinary System	5%
	Gastrointestinal System & Nutritional Health	10%
	Circulatory & Hematologic Systems	10%
	Respiratory System	10%
Integumentary System	5%	

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TWO-DECISION POINT MODEL

Examinees will be required to demonstrate minimal competency across each of the seven domains of competency. The outline for implementation of the new, two-decision point, competency-based COMLEX-USA Master Examination Blueprint is depicted below:

COMLEX-USA EXAMINATION PROGRAM			
LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2-CE	LEVEL 2-PE	LEVEL 3
ASSESSMENT PURPOSE			
	Successful promotion along licensure pathway for entry into graduate medical education: "supervised practice"		Successful promotion in graduate medical education for licensure: "unsupervised practice"
DECISION POINT 1	DECISION POINT 1	DECISION POINT 1	DECISION POINT 2
CONTENT			
One-day computer-based examination 400 predominantly multiple-choice test questions	One-day computer-based examination 400 predominantly multiple-choice test questions	One-day 12 station standardized patient-based performance evaluation of fundamental clinical skills	Two-day computer-based examination 500-550 MCQs, clinical decision-making cases, and other novel test item formats (up to 30 additional clinical cases)
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE			
2019	2019	2019	2018

NEXT STEPS

The NBOME is continuing its work to meet stakeholders' needs for the COMLEX-USA examination program.

- Further delineation of test specifications for each examination level in the program as well as any changes to eligibility criteria to be released by mid-year 2017.
- Finalize administration design and test scheduling options for the new two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3, which will be scored as one test administration (one total score) for the two-day examination.
- Continued development of novel test item formats such as clinical decision-making/ key features cases and pilot testing of point-of-care item types. The purpose of these novel test items is to provide a broader range of competency assessment within COMLEX-USA examinations and enhance examination authenticity.
- Continued test cycle date planning with additional research related to stakeholder input on transition and black-out periods in 2018-2019 as the new blueprint is launched.
- Exploration of further enhancements to score reports and score release schedules. NBOME is evaluating how to provide examinees and other stakeholders (e.g., colleges of osteopathic medicine and residency programs) with score reports that maximize meaningful information and minimize opportunities for misinterpretation.
- Continued collaboration and research on workplace and other expanded assessments for attested and not measured outcomes of the Competency Domains, to potentially harmonize with other evolving assessment paradigms in medical education across the continuum, including milestones and entrustable professional activities.



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