An Empirical Evaluation of the Pandemic’s Impact on the Credentialing Industry

2023 Innovations in Testing Conference
March 12-15, 2023
PROTECTING THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING THE MEANS TO ASSESS COMPETENCIES FOR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND RELATED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS
NBOME Assessment Portfolio

**EDUCATION**
- COMAT
- WelCOM
- COMSAE

**LICENSURE**
- COMLEX-USA
  - LEVEL 1
  - LEVEL 2-CE
  - LEVEL 3

**PRACTICE**
- COMVEX
- OCC/CME

**CATALYST**
ASSESSMENT PLATFORM
LEVEL 1
One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

LEVEL 2-CE
One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

LEVEL 2-PE
One-day clinical skills evaluation.
DISCONTINUED

LEVEL 3
Two-day computer-based exam. 420 multiple-choice questions, clinical decision-making cases, novel test item formats, including 22+ clinical cases.

DO Degree
Disruption in 2020-2021

How did the pandemic’s start impact candidates for NBOME’s licensure examinations?

- Medical schools (“COMs”) shut down
- Teaching labs unavailable, clinical rotations cancelled or limited
- Adverse impact of remote instruction on student learning and lifestyle
- Computer-based test centers shut or restricted capacity
- Travel to in-person clinical skills examinations limited
- Safety of clinical skills examinations called into question
Response in 2021-2022

How did the response to the pandemic change the status of NBOME’s examinations?

- COMAT proctored vs. self-proctored
- COMLEX-USA Level 1 changed to pass/fail
- Disruption to Level 2-PE (Clinical Skills) administration
- Attestation by COM Deans substituted for passing the Level 2-PE examination
- Termination of Level 2-PE
- Creation of Special Commission
Road ahead for 2023 and beyond

How is the NBOME’s response to the pandemic changing the approach to assessments?

- C3DO pilots for clinical skills assessment
- Remote proctoring considerations
- Attitudes toward standardized testing
COMLEX-USA Testing Volumes

- COMLEX-USA testing volumes continue to increase (13.6% annual growth since 2016)
- New COMs in development will maintain or accelerate that growth
- No COVID-related impact on osteopathic licensure assessment growth fundamentals

![COMLEX-USA First Time Test Takers Chart]

- Level 1
- Level 2CE
- Level 3
COMLEX-USA Pass Rates

- Pass rates for NBOME exams show some decline for UME test takers

*Source: NBOME website
Pass rates for some health care licensure and high stakes examinations showing a declining trend during pandemic period

- USMLE Step 1 (98% to 93% from 2020 to 2022)
- NCLEX (88% to 81% from 2019 to 2022)
- NAPLEX (86% to 80% from 2020 to 2022)
- PANCE (95% to 92% from 2020 to 2022)
- NBCE Part IV (93% to 89% from 2019 to 2022)

*Source: taken from public disclosures for first-time test takers*
Research Opportunities

- Pandemic’s impact on test taker knowledge and preparation
- Demographic differences in performance during pandemic
  - Gender
  - Location
  - Language
  - Longitudinal analysis
- Correlation with future professional performance
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