

# Announcements

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## Announcements

### USMLE Suspending Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination

**Posted: May 26, 2020**

Over the course of the last three months, the USMLE program has considered several options for resuming Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) testing. This exploration was informed by years of ongoing work charting the future of clinical skills assessment for licensure, including considerations of telehealth (as announced on May 8th). Since the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, we have accelerated these efforts. Due to the complexity of technical and psychometric work required, we have determined we will not be able to meet timelines for the immediate release of a revised exam. In making this determination to suspend, we also considered the examinees and stakeholder concerns about the challenges created by rapid deployment of a new test platform. After careful consideration of all factors, we have decided to suspend Step 2 CS test administrations for the next 12-18 months.

We remain committed to the valid, standardized measurement of clinical skills for licensure. We will take this time to determine the optimal approach to do so without compromising the health and safety of examinees and test center staff. While many details surrounding this decision are still being finalized, we felt it was important to share this information with you as soon as we determined our change in direction. We will be providing refunds for all of those who were unable to take Step 2 CS due to the suspension of testing and will work to expedite these refunds. Over the next few weeks, we will be announcing more detailed information on what this decision will mean for examinees, e.g., refunds, progression through education/training and medical licensure.

### Midwest Regional Testing Center

**Posted: May 21, 2020**

Earlier this week, we announced that the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine will serve as limited regional testing centers using Prometric equipment. Administrations of Step 1 and Step 2 CK are scheduled to begin at these sites on May 27, 2020.

### **A third regional testing center will be Indiana University School of Medicine.**

**Administrations of Step 1 and Step 2 CK are scheduled to begin at this site on June 1, 2020.** The site will have 50 available test administrations each day. At this time, this regional testing center will only serve students from a Midwest consortium of schools:

- Indiana University School of Medicine (host school)
- University of Louisville School of Medicine
- University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
- Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine
- Carle Illinois College of Medicine
- University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign
- Ohio State College of Medicine
- University of Kentucky College of Medicine



Students from these schools should wait to hear from their medical school Dean's Office (Student Affairs) before taking any action to schedule or cancel a Prometric test center appointment. The institutions' Dean's Offices, in collaboration with Prometric and the USMLE program, will schedule eligible students for USMLE testing.

Regional testing centers are being set up in different geographical areas across the U.S. We will be announcing more centers soon.

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## Regional and Event-Based Testing Update

**Posted: May 20, 2020**

This update provides more information about our phased approach to expand USMLE testing capacity.

We know there are many questions surrounding the resumption of Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) testing. We are exploring the feasibility of several options and potential examination formats. We will be making a more definitive announcement about Step 2 CS within the next 7-10 days, which will address many of the questions we have been receiving.

### Phase One: Regional Testing Centers at Medical Schools

In this phase, we are setting up a small number of testing sites in medical schools using Prometric equipment. These sites will serve as limited testing centers for different geographical regions across the U.S.

Two days ago, we announced that Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University would act as the first pilot site for this type of regional testing. **A second regional testing center will be the University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine. Administrations of Step 1 and Step 2 CK are scheduled to begin at this site on May 27, 2020.** The site will have 20 available test administrations each day. This regional testing center will only serve students from a consortium of Florida schools in the region:

- University of South Florida Health Morsani College of Medicine (host school)
- University of Florida College of Medicine
- University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- University of Central Florida College of Medicine
- Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
- Florida State University College of Medicine
- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine Bradenton Campus
- Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Florida International University Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
- Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine

Students from these schools should wait to hear from their medical school Dean's Office (Student Affairs) before taking any action to schedule or cancel a Prometric test center appointment. The institutions' Dean's Offices, in collaboration with Prometric and the USMLE program, will schedule eligible students for USMLE testing.

Regional testing will not be available to every student, but it is a positive development in addressing national capacity. We are hoping to expand testing at medical schools in a greater capacity through event-based testing, which is planned for this summer.

### Phase Two: Event-Based Testing at Medical Schools

By the end of this week, we will be emailing a survey to Executive Chief Proctors at all LCME-accredited medical schools as well as AOA-accredited medical schools who administer NBME® Subject Examinations. The survey's purpose is to determine the school's level of interest and ability to participate in event-based testing to administer Step 1 and Step 2 CK.

We greatly appreciate the collaboration with the leadership of all the schools involved in phase one and phase two of our plans. We will announce more regional testing centers soon.

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