LCME Update of Medical Students, Patients, and COVID-19: Approaches to Suspension of USMLE Step 2 CS Testing

On May 26, 2020, the USMLE announced its decision to suspend Step 2 CS test administrations for 12-18 months. The following principles and information are offered as guidance to medical schools as this period begins.

- Although the LCME does require that medical students learn and are assessed on the core clinical skills specified in the medical school’s educational program objectives, it does NOT require that students take/pass Step 2 CS. If the medical school requires taking or passing Step 2 CS for graduation, then the school’s faculty, through the school’s curriculum committee and student advancement and promotion committee, can determine how it does and/or will assess core clinical skills and can eliminate any graduation requirement it currently has for taking/passing Step 2 CS.

- The Data Collection Instrument (DCI) for AY 2021-22 has been revised to eliminate any requests for Step 2 CS data for AY 2020-21 and beyond. Schools completing the AY 2020-21 DCI should respond to questions regarding Step 2 CS with whatever data they have for AY 2019-20.