



# NBPME Reports



## The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter The American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination Series

### NBPME Seeks Nominations

The board is seeking nominations for an individual whose experience includes significant involvement in the development and administration of certification examinations by a specialty board which has been recognized by the Joint Commission on the Recognition of Specialty Boards. The appointment will be for a three-year term, which may be renewed. Interested individuals should forward a letter and curriculum vitae no later than June 15, 2022 to: [nbpmeofc@aol.com](mailto:nbpmeofc@aol.com).

### CSPE Task Force

The NBPME has convened a group to consider options for the future of the patient encounter examination. The members include a variety of parties with a direct interest in the issue including deans from two of the schools, the APMSA, state licensing boards and the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards, CPME, COTH, college faculty, a physician currently in a residency program who has taken CSPE, a public member and a psychometrician.

The Task Force will begin its deliberations by reviewing the results of the broad-based survey commissioned by NBPME in November 2021. Key findings from that survey of 40 representatives of organizations and 683 individuals are shown below.

- I. The four skill sets remain important to assess; i.e.,
  - a. Physician-patient communication and interpersonal skills
  - b. Data gathering and history taking
  - c. Documentation of the patient encounter
  - d. Clinical problem-solving and decision-making
- II. The two best methods for verification of the four skill sets are:
  - a. College of podiatric medicine or teaching hospital-based examination
  - b. Evaluation by preceptors
- III. Formative assessment (i.e., evaluations given during the learning process) would be acceptable
- IV. The greatest limitations of these assessments are **bias** of evaluators and assuring **accuracy** of evaluators
- V. The majority of Organizational Stakeholders support a national standardized clinical skills examination
- VI. Cost is an overriding concern by all respondents, especially among students
- VII. Preferences for evaluation by patients on clinical rotations is low because of concerns about potential bias and a lack of inter-rater reliability

The task force will begin meeting in April and is expected to present a report to the board at its annual meeting in August 2022.

## **NBPME Spring Board Meeting**

The NBPME held its Mid-year meeting March 11 and 12 in conjunction with the APMA House of Delegates conference. In addition to board members, representatives of the AACPM, the APMSA, the FPMB and the APMA also participated during the open session. Prior to this meeting, board president, Dr. Roland Ramdass, attended the February meetings of the APMSA and AACPM. Many of the same topics of mutual interest were addressed in each and the NBPME is committed to open communication and broad participation moving forward. The two most relevant matters were the future of the CSPE examination and administrative processes of Prometric, the board's written test contractor.

## **New Test Specifications**

A nationwide practice analysis survey was recently completed by Prometric for the NBPME. The comprehensive survey asked practitioners to identify and rank an extensive list of tasks and the knowledges necessary to practice podiatric medicine. More than 300 respondents participated and provided the basis for a weekend-long workshop that was held in January. The product of the workshop was a revised test blueprint for each of the three parts of the APMLE series of written examinations. For many years, a study was done for Parts I and II, and a separate study was completed for Part III. This is the first time in the history of the program that all three parts of the examination were considered simultaneously. While this was a new approach, the outcome confirmed that all test items were assigned to the proper domain and exam part. Only minor adjustments were made to the list of major topics (domains) or to the proportion of questions in each category.

## **June 2022 Part III Score Reports**

The June 2022 the Part III examination will be administered using the new test specifications that came out of the recent practice analysis report. Following the administration of the examination, a standard setting workshop will convene on June 23 to recommend what is the appropriate passing score for this new set of specifications. The board then must meet to approve a new cut score before the scores can be processed and reported. This is all vital for purposes of fairness and accurate measurement, and to ensure that the cutscore accurately separates qualified from unqualified candidates. Getting the information out, especially in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and some other states that require a Part III score before candidates can get a license for residency, is going to be difficult. Candidates and state agencies should be aware of the tight timeframe.

## **Expert Panel Members Needed**

The National Board is continually seeking new volunteers to serve at test development and review workshops. Participants are provided travel, per diem, an honorarium and continuing education contact hours. Workshops are held in Arlington, VA, Conshohocken, PA or by telephone and web conference calls that are typically three-hours, from 2:00 to 5:00 Eastern Time. Eligible persons will have completed a residency program and all three parts of the APMLE series. Please submit a CV with email contact information to [nbpmeofc@aol.com](mailto:nbpmeofc@aol.com).