

**Resolution 18-116**  
**USMLE – Step 2 – Transfer of Jurisdiction over Required Clinical Skills Examinations to U.S. Medical Schools**  
Medical Students

1 Whereas, The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)  
2 examination was previously administered under a different name to assess English language skills of  
3 international medical school graduates; and  
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5 Whereas, In 2004, the Step 2 CS exam was modified and appended on to the existing multiple choice  
6 Step 2 exam in 2004 to serve as a communication and interpersonal skills competency exam; and  
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8 Whereas, Florida Statutes Title XXXII Chapter 458.311 specified prior to 2004 that physicians must pass  
9 the entire USMLE for licensure, adding Step 2 CS as a required component of Step 2 automatically  
10 incorporated Step 2 CS as a state licensure requirement; and  
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12 Whereas American Medical Association (AMA) Policy H275.956 states, “It is the policy of the AMA to  
13 recognize the clinical skills assessment is best performed using a rigorous and consistent examination  
14 administered by medical schools;” and  
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16 Whereas, Over 90% of U.S. and Canadian medical schools currently administer an objective structured  
17 clinical examination (OSCE) or variant on this principle, and 74% of these schools require a passing score  
18 for graduation; and  
19

20 Whereas, The seven (7) medical schools in Florida offer multiple OSCEs throughout undergraduate  
21 medical education, and graduation criterion requires a passing score on each of these school-  
22 administered clinical assessments; and

23 Whereas, The clinical skills curriculum from these seven (7) Florida medical schools fulfills the standards  
24 outlined by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; and  
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26 Whereas, AMA Policy D295.988 states, “Our AMA will work...to pursue the transition from and  
27 replacement for the current United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 Clinical Skills  
28 (CS) examination...with a requirement to pass a Liaison Committee on Medical Education-accredited or  
29 Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation-accredited medical school-administered, clinical skills  
30 examination;” and  
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32 Whereas, Medical students from across the country must incur the costs of travel to and lodging near  
33 one of only five standardized testing centers in the U.S. to take the Step 2 CS exam; and  
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35 Whereas, The current registration fee for Step 2 CS is \$1,280; and  
36

37 Whereas, 20,252 students of U.S. and Canadian medical schools took the Step 2 CS exam in 2015,  
38 amounting to over \$25 million in exam fees alone; and  
39

40 Whereas, There was a reported 96% pass rate amongst first-time test takers, and examinees required to  
41 retake the test had a pass rate of 86%, resulting in one double-failed student for every 156 student who

42 takes the test, or approximately \$200,000 in exam fees alone to identify each unsatisfactory medical  
43 student; and

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45 Whereas, Recent studies found only weak correlation between Step 2 CS scores and end-of-year  
46 evaluations of internal medicine interns, and Step 2 CS data gathering scores added no additional  
47 predictive value beyond student scores on written USMLE exams;<sup>8</sup> and

48

49 Whereas, These same studies relied on the existence of a standardized annual assessment of internal  
50 medicine residents' clinical competence and communication skills by residency directors, using  
51 information gathered from direct observation and chart audits in a real-world setting, and each resident  
52 must have satisfactory ratings in all each component and a satisfactory rating on overall clinical  
53 competence to be able to sit for board certification examination; and

54

55 Whereas, The USMLE Step 2 CS exam is an extraneous financial burden and unnecessary redundancy for  
56 medical students; therefore be it

57 RESOLVED, That the Florida Medical Association advocate for the Florida Board of Medicine to eliminate  
58 the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 2 Clinical Skills examination as a state licensure  
59 requirement for Liaison Committee on Medical Education-accredited medical school graduates who  
60 have passed school-administered clinical skills assessments.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
20 staff hours	\$1,100	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$1,100	\$0 added to the operating budget

*Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.*

Reference Committee: I – Health, Education & Public Policy