

## **USMLE Step 3 and COMLEX Step 3 Policy**

**Purpose:** To ensure all MUSC-Charleston specialty and subspecialty residents complete all steps of the USMLE or COMLEX sequence as part of their graduate medical education. It will also enable training programs to assess the general medical knowledge of their residents.

### **Policy**

- All PGY-1 residents are required to register for and take the USMLE or COMLEX Step 3 exam prior to completion of the PGY-1 year. Note: The MCCQE, in approved sequence, is also accepted as an equivalent exam for this policy.
- If a PGY-1 resident does not take the Step 3 exam during the PGY-1 year, the resident's Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed for the PGY-2 year.
- All PGY-1 residents must PASS the Step 3 exam by the end of the PGY-2 year. If a resident does not pass the Step 3 exam by the end of the PGY-2 year, the resident's Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed.
- If a resident enters the training program at the PGY-2 level and has not passed the Step 3 exam, the resident must PASS the Step 3 exam by the end of the PGY-2 year. If a resident does not pass the Step 3 exam by the end of the PGY-2 year, the resident's Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed.

*NOTE: A resident's PGY-1 or PGY-2 year will NOT be extended to meet these requirements.*

- All specialty and subspecialty residents accepted into MUSC-Charleston GME programs at the PGY-3 level or above MUST have already passed the Step 3 exam BEFORE entering the residency program.

### **Procedure**

- Every resident is responsible for providing copies of the Step 3 exam results to the program director and, if requested, the GME Office. It is the program coordinator's responsibility to input all scores into MedHub. The resident will be allowed two (2) days off from the program to take the Step 3 exam. These two days will NOT be counted as annual or sick leave.
- Program directors are responsible for ensuring all exam information (date taken, score, status, etc.) is posted within their residents' MedHub profiles in a timely manner. All information is to be current by June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- Exceptions to this policy will only be made by MUSC's Designated Institutional Official in consultation with the program director and department chair, and only then in rare and unusual circumstances.