



## **DECISION 002: Formal Adoption of NBME CAS exams in Year One and Year Two**

### **PURPOSE/BACKGROUND**

The University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine supports the importance of feedback on learning oriented toward licensure (USMLE). This policy outlines adoption of 1) comprehensive use of the National Board of Medical Examiners Customized Assessment Services (NBME CAS) for summative assessment, 2) abandonment of ExamSoft software, and 3) a possible shift of faculty assessment toward formative use utilizing Canvas. UNR Med's goal is to promote excellence in students' mastery of UNR Med's Medical Education Program Objectives (MEPOs) and maximize students' development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to enter the practice of medicine, and that includes attending to advanced performance on licensure exams.

Development of this Decision:

- A. In AY2018-19, we piloted the use of 10 NBME CAS exams in year two. These exams were all vetted in public (content expert) comment and used to determine block performance. Test review shifted from specific item analysis, to general feedback in outlined areas defined by the CAS test coding. This coding specifically matches the NBME CAS Blueprint, which provides very specific and detailed knowledge about concept area mastery. Initial results suggest that this assessment approach has shifted students' mean performance about 7 points higher than previous years' performances on the Comprehensive Basic Science Exams (which is suggestive of a shift in the USMLE Step One performance).
- B. At the MESC meeting of April 25, 2019, we discussed the utility of NBME CAS and the mutual exclusive use of NBME CAS and ExamSoft. We must abandon ExamSoft to switch to NBME CAS due to cost. NBME CAS is expensive, but it has high fidelity with the USMLE exams. This shift to NBME CAS in year one and year two mimics the standing policy in using NBME Shelf Exams in Clerkship assessment in year three.

### **WHO NEEDS TO KNOW THIS DECISION**

Administrators, Faculty, Staff and Students

### **DECISION**

We adopt the comprehensive use of NBME CAS in year one and year two. We believe that the consistent and widespread use of NBME CAS testing is the best approach to assessment and feedback for our students to perform well on licensure exams.

This Decision should not misrepresent, to anyone, the idea that much of learning to be a doctor happens beyond the limits of licensure exams. We will continue to provide rapid and accurate feedback verbally, narratively and in situationally appropriate, educationally sound practice.

This Decision should only attest to UNR Med's commitment to institutionally valuing a nationwide trend toward centralized valid testing as well as the utility of high performance on medical licensure exams.

Medical Education Steering Committee Approval: 5/16/19

Signed:  Kevin C. Facemyer, Ph.D.; Chair, Medical Education Steering Committee