COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

INTERIM POLICY 2020-07

Interim Policy on USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination for Limited Licensure

September 24, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency in Massachusetts in Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. Federal and state authorities likewise responded to the urgent coronavirus pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) suspended the administration of the Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination due to COVID-19 and the need to social distance. On May 26, 2020, the USMLE announced that the administration of the Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination was suspended until at least June 1, 2021, due to the unique, human-to-human delivery mode of this examination.

Accordingly, the Board of Registration in Medicine temporarily suspends the requirement under 243 CMR 2.02(7)(d)2 that an applicant submit evidence of having passed the Clinical Skills Component of USMLE Step 2 as a requirement for qualifying for a limited license. This temporary suspension will occur automatically if the applicant has not previously failed USMLE Step 2 CS.

If an applicant has failed the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills examination, prior to March 13, 2020, the date the USMLE suspension went into effect, he or she will need to apply directly to the Board for a temporary suspension of the 243 CMR 2.02(7)(d)2 requirement.

This interim order supersedes any existing Board policy or regulation to the contrary.