



# Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

April 28, 2020

Dear M2 and M3 students,

I have heard that several of you received cancellation notices yesterday from Prometric of your already-scheduled testing dates. I am sorry for the anxiety and disruption that this caused. Last night, I had the opportunity to participate in an Association of American Medical Colleges' Council of Deans (COD) call with Dr. Michael Barone, vice president for licensure of the NBME. He shared the following information and answered questions and comments posed by the deans:

1. At this time, the NBME does not plan to expedite conversion of Step 1 to pass/fail for this cycle. They did consider this.
2. USMLE examinations are considered essential.
3. Re-opening of Prometric centers will occur based on local conditions and mandates. All of the centers will have to ensure social distancing.
4. Yesterday, Prometric embarked on a strategy to cancel approximately 50% of the scheduled slots for USMLE, which is approximately 15,000 slots. Next, they intend to cancel an equal number of slots occupied by testers in "nonessential" categories. They will then open those new slots to testers in essential categories, such as yourselves. They apparently structured the rollout of this strategy based on the technology that they utilize for scheduling.
5. Prometric intends to modify their operations and expand their hours and staffing.
6. Dr. Barone cited an April 27 announcement from the USMLE that the organization will begin exploring alternate test delivery methods for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3 due to increasing uncertainty around having wider availability of in-person testing at Prometric test centers. The organization has committed to completing this analysis by June 30. During last night's discussion, COD members articulated the need for a faster timeline to address the concerns of impacted students. If they ultimately allow medical schools to serve as test centers, CMSRU will volunteer for this.

I give you the caveat that this information I am supplying was active as of last evening. Dr. Perlis, associate dean for medical education, will send you further information on rescheduling as soon as she receives it, in addition to anything that Prometric sends you. (I understand that the link they included to reschedule was not operative yesterday.)

Thank you for your patience.

With best wishes for a speedy and equitable solution to these "bumps in the road."

Sincerely,

*Annette C. Reboli, M.D.*

Annette C. Reboli, MD  
Dean and Professor of Medicine

