



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

May 11, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty, and Staff,

At 9:30 this morning, the Coalition for Physician Accountability, a cross organizational group of national medical education organizations, released recommendations entitled "***Current Practices of Student Movement Across Organizations for the Class of 2021.***" The Coalition consists of the following organizations:

- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
- American Medical Association
- Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Council of Medical Specialty Societies/Organization of Program Director Associations
- Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
- National Resident Matching Program

To develop the recommendations, the Coalition convened a work group that established the following guiding principles for considering these important issues:

1. Patient care and the safety of the community, patients, and learners are most important.
2. Medical schools must prioritize meeting core competencies anchored in accreditation and graduation requirements for their own students. Likewise, residency programs must prioritize fulfilling current residents' competencies and meeting accreditation and specialty board certification requirements.
3. The residency selection process should remain as equitable as possible.

Their guidance covers three main issues (away electives, residency interviews, and the timeline for ERAS) that applicants and training programs are facing as they prepare for the 2020-2021 residency cycle during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their recommendations are as follows:

Recommendation 1: Away rotations for medical students

The working group recommends that for the 2020-2021 academic year, away rotations be discouraged, except under the following circumstances: students who have a specialty interest and do not have access to a clinical experience with a residency program in that specialty in their school system, and students for whom an away rotation is required for graduation or accreditation requirements. They suggest that students meeting these exceptions should limit the number of away rotations as much as possible and should consider geographically proximate programs, when appropriate.

Recommendation 2: Virtual interviews

The working group recommends that all programs commit to online interviews and virtual visits for all applicants, including local students, rather than in person interviews for the entire cycle.

Recommendation 3: ERAS timeline

The working group recommends a delayed opening of ERAS for residency programs and a delayed release of the medical student performance evaluation (MSPE), and that the opening and release happen on the same day. I will be discussing these recommendations with the CMSRU leadership team, the Class of 2021 SGA officers, and with the Class of 2021 to reach a consensus on how best to proceed.

The NBME has identified several options for proctored testing outside of Prometric centers. They are expecting to begin testing at some medical schools this month. The pilot schools are being considered based on geographic location and their willingness to serve as a regional testing site. They are not able to offer this to all schools. They continue to explore remote proctoring and expect to report on the timeline for that in the next week.

Step 2CS

Members of the Class of 2021 who registered for Step 2 CS should have received the following information on Friday. The NBME does not believe they can resume the Step 2CS exam in its current format without unacceptable infection risk to examinees and staff. They do not anticipate being able to resume Step 2CS testing in June or July and, once operational, do not expect to be at full capacity until the end of the year. They are considering an alternative form of assessment similar to telehealth, with examinees and patients interacting via a web browser.

Lastly, the NBME has a town hall scheduled with the OSR for May 19th. I believe our CMSRU representatives will participate.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

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Dean and Professor of Medicine