

North Carolina Medical Board  
License Committee Report  
November 2015

Bryant Murphy, MD, Chairperson, Debra Bolick, MD, Eleanor Greene, MD, Mr. A. Wayne Holloman, Mr. R. Walker

Open Session

Old Business

1. USMLE/COMLEX 3 attempt limit.

At the September Board meeting, the Board voted to table the discussion regarding the 3 attempt limit until additional information was received from the NBOME regarding the percentage pass rate for initial and multiple attempts for COMLEX components 1, 2 and 3. Additional data from NBOME has been received.

Recommendation: Retain the current USMLE 3 attempt rule.

Rational:

1. A plurality of other state medical boards use the 3 attempt rule.
2. The multistate compact has chosen to use the 3 attempt rule.
3. A previous Board considered this matter with deliberation and care and instituted the 3 attempt rule.
4. The current rule was instituted to alleviate multiple problems with a time-based rule.
5. Increasing the number of USMLE passing attempts does not assure that this would improve the flow of well-qualified physicians to North Carolina.
6. While it is acknowledged the current 3 attempt rule is not based on hard outcome data, attempts to obtain this information have not proven conclusive. Additionally, other entities, who do have resources to analyze the information available, have not been able to come to a firm conclusion on what is best practice.
7. With very minimal exception the current rule has worked well since it was implemented, and there is no compelling reason to change the current rule.

2. Rules for Approval

The proposed rule changes for 21 NCAC 32b. 1370 and 21 NCAC 32b. 1402 have been published in the NC register and the Board's website. To date, no comments have been received. Public hearing is scheduled for November 16, 2015. If no comments are received prior to November 16<sup>th</sup>, the proposed rules will be sent to Rules Review with an expected effective date of January 1, 2016.

Recommendation: Approve rules unless comments have been received.

## New Business

### 1. Interstate Licensure Compact

Update from FSMB regarding current progress of the Interstate Licensure Compact.

Recommendation: Accept as information. Staff will continue to monitor.

### 2. Key Performance Indicators

Data from April – September, 2015.

Recommendation: Accept as information.