

Puerto Rico Medical Examination

POLICY: It is the policy of the Board of Licensure in Medicine that it will not accept a passing score on the Puerto Rico medical revalidation examination in lieu of the examination requirements of 32 MRSA, §3271, 3 and Rule Chapter 1, Paragraph 2, 1. Specific exception may be considered for applicants who are currently certified and participating in a “lifelong learning process” by a Specialty Board which is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), and who demonstrate oral and written English language capabilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE February 8, 2011

REVISION DATE: October 8, 2013

HISTORY: The integrity of the Puerto Rico Medical Revalidation Examination has been compromised. On August 1, 2007, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration issued a news release regarding the indictment of 88 medical doctors charged in connection with false passing scores in the Puerto Rico medical exam. Further, the Board has traditionally accepted state examinations as acceptable alternatives for older applicants, since those state examinations were the pre-cursor exams to the NBME, FLEX, and then the USMLE examinations. All those state exams or state proctored exams have now been replaced by the USMLE examinations which are universally accepted by every state medical board. The USMLE series is offered in English and includes significant tests for communication and comprehension in English.

While the Puerto Rican examination system and the Puerto Rico Medical Licensing Board have in the past demonstrated compromised integrity, it is less certain that an individual applicant was affected by such circumstances. Reasonableness dictates some mechanism to provide special consideration, after demonstrating reasonable data to suggest competency.