

# USMLE STEP 2CS

(Information compiled by Tracy Lower, MD)

## Resources:

Make use of the website: [www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org)

## Registration/Scheduling

- \*Once you register, you have 12 months eligibility to schedule your exam.
- \*There are 2 sessions (am and pm) each day-12 students each. They fill the am sessions before they open the pm sessions.
- \*Keep checking back—what looks unavailable initially may open up when 1<sup>st</sup> session filled.
- \*Cancellations/rescheduling incur a fee—amount depends on number of days before that you reschedule.
- \*They told me must be more than 30 days before scheduled appointment to reschedule.

## Case Development

- \*May focus on history only, physical only, or history and physical.
- \*Categories may include: cardiovascular, constitutional, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, psychiatric, neurological, respiratory or women's health.
- \*They digitally record all encounters for quality control (not direct observation).
- \*Cases vary with acuity, age, gender.

## Exam

- \*Need your white coat and stethoscope...everything else in room.
- \*Review door chart for presenting complaint, vitals etc.
- \*Besides the patient, other types of encounters include interview with a caregiver, in person or by telephone, or focused exams on mannequins (e.g. GU).
- \* If want rectal, GU, breast, corneal reflexes...ask for them in the diagnostic plans section of your note.  
No cards.
- \*Perform **RELEVANT** H&P depending on door instructions.
- \*15 minutes with patient.
- \*10 minutes for written note after encounter.
- \*If you finish early with patient, you can use extra time for your note.
- \*Review format for note. Relevant history, relevant physical findings, differential diagnoses, initial workup. Does **not** include management, referrals, consultations.
- \*Must fit in space given (no extra pages etc).
- \*Note can be handwritten (but must be legible) or typed into computer.
- \*5-minute warning announcement before end of time.

## Scoring

Three Parts:

1. The integrated clinical encounter (60% SP lists and 40% note)
2. Communication and interpersonal skills (questioning and information-sharing skills; professional manner and rapport)
3. English proficiency

- \*Scores are pass/fail. **Must pass all 3 parts to pass the exam.**
- \*SP generated: history checklist, physical exam checklist (Bates), interpersonal skills and communication, English speaking proficiency.
- \*Patient note: quality of documentation of pertinent positive **and** negative findings, differential diagnoses and diagnostic assessment plans.
- \*Looking for: organization and quality of information, interpretation of data, egregious/dangerous actions, legibility.
- \*Notes are assessed by trained physicians.
- \*The only abbreviations that are allowed are given on the website.
- \*Turnaround time for scoring goal of 8 weeks.

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