



**NBOME**  
NATIONAL BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

**Report on Progress: Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA  
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME)  
December, 2010**

**NBOME's Blue Ribbon Panel:**

- Objective: Research and expert consensus on enhancement of the COMLEX-USA licensure examination series
- The Panel met two times in 2010 (two-day meetings in May and November)
- Organizations with representatives on the panel: Federation of State Medical Boards, American Osteopathic Association, American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, Council of Medical Specialty Societies (OPDA/Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Program Directors), Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles, NBOME
- Chaired by Janice Knebl, D.O., MBA, Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Geriatrics/Department of Medicine at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC/TCOM) at Fort Worth, and Vice-Chair of NBOME Board of Directors

**NBOME's priorities for a New Version of COMLEX-USA:**

- Competency-based schema
- Expected implementation – 2015-2020; minor enhancements continue to evolve in the interim
- Two decision points:
  1. *Entering residency (supervised practice) and*
  2. *Entering independent practice*
- Integrate the application of biomedical sciences in all assessments as well as use of best evidence and appropriate information resources to address clinical presentations
- Expanded assessment of clinical skills is likely; further research and pilot testing is underway

**Some Preliminary Panel Consensus:**

- All 7 competency domains will likely be assessed across each "decision point"
- Cognitive examinations will continue to provide numeric scores (vs. pass/fail)
- Assessment for licensure could consider including elements of a portfolio model
- Consider maintaining but adapting current COMLEX-USA examination blueprint and outline to consider competency domains

**Current Panel Initiatives:**

- Updating NBOME's *Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competencies* document, expected publication - mid to late 2011
- Ongoing research includes practice analyses, surveys, and consultation/participation from international experts
- Ongoing research study with osteopathic residents to pilot assessment of use of evidence-based medicine resources at point of care and higher-order communication skills challenges
- Roadmap for implementation timeline expected by late 2011; expected 2015-2020 timeframe for complete implementation