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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Class of 2009

**FROM:** Mary Ellen Hernandez, M.D., M.S.  
Director, M4 Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA)  
Comprehensive Clinical Assessment Committee

**DATE:** January 7, 2008

**SUBJECT:** M4 Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA)

The M4 CCA is designed to assess whether students have achieved competency in fundamental clinical skills necessary to provide excellent, effective, and safe patient care as a PGY 1 trainee.

### **EXAM ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:**

**Unlike previous years, the exam will be given in two parts:**

Part 1: Clinical Exam

Part 2: Computer Based Station exams

**Part 1: The Clinical Exam** will take place in the Learning Resource Center on Tuesday, June 3 – June 6 (Tuesday – Friday) and June 9 – June 11 (Monday-Wednesday), 2008. Each student will spend a total of approximately 4 hours taking Part 1 of the exam; you are expected to be on your clerkship the remainder of the day. Morning sessions run 8:30-11:45 a.m. (report @ 8:00 a.m.) and afternoon sessions are 1:00-4:15 p.m. (report @ 12:30 p.m.).

### **Part 1 Sign-up:**

You will be given the opportunity to sign-up for Part 1 of the exam from **8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 12 until noon on Monday, May 19, 2008**. In addition, Sign-up is on a first come first serve basis. Any students who do not sign-up for a session by noon on May 19 will be assigned a day and time. Sign-up at:

<https://www.umms.med.umich.edu/signup/>

**Part 2: The Computer Based Exam** will be available on-line in the LRC beginning **Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 13, 2008. You must report to the LRC between 8:00 a.m. – (TBD) p.m. to complete this portion of the CCA.** It is **not** necessary to complete Part 1 prior to taking the clinical exam component of the CCA.

### **EXAM STRUCTURE INFORMATION:**

The CCA examines key skills defined by our University of Michigan Medical School curriculum that may not be a part of the Step 2CS. Keep in mind that the CCA is not an open book exam so notes or textbooks may *not* be used. Final decisions regarding the stations to be included on the 2008 exam are still being discussed. **Please note that each year the CCA exam can be significantly different than the previous year's examination and therefore any advice you may receive concerning the content or format of the CCA exam based on previous years' exams may be misleading.**

### **Part 1: Clinical Exam**

Students complete multiple stations (approximately 10 stations, each 15-30 minutes in length). Standardized patients will be used at most of these stations. It is expected that students will act in a professional manner throughout the exam, treating patients and staff with courtesy and respect. Behavior that is felt to be unprofessional may be grounds for dismissal from and failure of the examination.

Post-encounter notes, done on the computer, will be part of the exam (you will also be expected to write post-encounter notes on the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Exam). You will be asked to take a focused history and/or perform an appropriate physical exam, communicate effectively with the patient, record your findings and differential diagnosis from the encounter, and finally to order appropriate diagnostic studies. You may also be asked to do an oral patient presentation to a faculty member.

### **Part 2: Computer Based Exam**

This portion of the exam will consist of three computer based stations and will take approximately one hour to complete. Content will include interpretation of imaging studies, an EBM related task, and interpretation of EKGs. The exam is closed book; therefore notes or textbooks may not be used.

### **Preparing for the CCA**

We recommend that your preparation for the CCA include a review of the suggested materials listed on the website. **Please note that the materials on this website are not meant to be inclusive of what is on the CCA.** The website address is:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/medstudents>

(click on the M4 CCA link at left of screen)

### **CCA Grading/CCA Remediation and Make-up**

Checklists for the stations involving patients include content, communication skills and interaction with patients. The Patient Interaction component (evaluated across multiple stations) includes communication and professionalism items such as establishing rapport, non-verbal communication, and organization. You must receive a passing grade on the

Patient Interaction component, in addition to passing grades on individual stations and the exam as a whole.

You will be given a numerical score from 0-100% for each station. You are required to pass each station, the Patient Interaction component and the exam overall. Passing standards are set for each station (these vary from station to station), the Patient Interaction component, and the overall passing score. The policies pertaining to the Comprehensive Clinical Assessment are at:

[http://www.med.umich.edu/medstudents/curRes/cca/m4/docs/Grading\\_Policies\\_05-07\\_excerpt.pdf](http://www.med.umich.edu/medstudents/curRes/cca/m4/docs/Grading_Policies_05-07_excerpt.pdf)

The results of the CCA will be available on-line at the Medical Student Portfolio site in mid to late June. You will receive an e-mail when the results have been posted.

Makeup sessions for students who must repeat individual stations or the entire CCA are scheduled for the Wednesday, August 6, 2008 and Friday, September 5, 2008. Please keep these dates in mind, as there will be no other makeup sessions scheduled, and the next opportunity to retake the exam will be in spring/summer 2009. In 2007, 61% needed to retake at least one station. Students failing the makeup may be required to participate in additional clinical experience(s) or other activity prior to being permitted to take the makeup a second time. Please note that this may require a change in your senior schedule.

Your class representatives to the CCA Committee are Laura Montague and Andrew Cheng. Please contact them with questions or input you might have for the CCA Committee. Also, you can contact Kelly K. Poszywak at 615-2992; [kellypos@umich.edu](mailto:kellypos@umich.edu) or me ([maryeb@umich.edu](mailto:maryeb@umich.edu)) if you have any other questions.

If you are on an irregular schedule or have other compelling scheduling concerns, please contact Kelly as soon as possible.

Thank you.

MEH:kkp