Comprehensive Osteopathic Medicine Licensure Examination - COMLEX

COMLEX is an acronym for Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination. The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) is responsible for the creation, development and oversight of the COMLEX - a series of four assessments that serve as a pathway for osteopathic physicians to obtain a license to practice medicine.

COMLEX Level 1, the first examination in the series, emphasizes the scientific concepts and principles that underlie the mechanisms of health, medical problems and disease. Level I, is a problem- and symptom-based assessment integrating the basic medical sciences of anatomy, behavioral science, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, osteopathic principles, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology. The examination is approximately 400 total questions.

COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE is a problem-based and symptom-based assessment integrating the clinical disciplines of emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, osteopathic principles, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, and other areas necessary to solve medical problems. A similar problem-symptom-based approach is used in Level 2 as in Level 1.

The COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE) is a one-day examination of clinical skills where each candidate will encounter twelve standardized patients over the course of a seven-hour examination day. The examination is administered at NBOME's National Center for Clinical Skills Testing, 101 W. Elm St, Conshohocken, Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia).

The Performance Evaluation augments the written COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE (Cognitive Evaluation) of osteopathic medical knowledge by providing an assessment of fundamental clinical skills. These clinical skills tested include: physician-patient communication, interpersonal skills and professionalism, medical history-taking and physical examination skills, osteopathic principles and osteopathic manipulative treatment, and documentation skills (including synthesis of clinical findings, integrated differential diagnosis, and formulation of a diagnostic and treatment plan).

COMLEX-USA Level 3 is a problem-based and symptom-based assessment integrating the clinical disciplines of emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, osteopathic principles, pediatrics, psychiatry, surgery, and other areas necessary to solve medical problems. Level 3, like Level 2-CE and Level 1, is problem-based and symptom-based in presentation.

Additional information about COMLEX and the NBOME can be found here:
- [http://www.nbome.org/docs/comlexBOI.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/comlexBOI.pdf)
- [http://www.nbome.org/candidates.asp?m=can](http://www.nbome.org/candidates.asp?m=can)