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TO: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – STATE BOARDS OF PHARMACY
           DEANS – SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

FROM: Maureen Garrity, Competency Assessment Director

DATE: September 29, 2022

RE: Implementation of new NAPLEX and MPJE passing standard, PCOA Updates

MPJE Blueprint Revision Update

Earlier this year, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy® (NABP®) revised the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination® (MPJE®) competency statements. The goal of the current revisions to the blueprint structure is to create four competency areas to allow for the development of a candidate performance report similar to the 2021 North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination® (NAPLEX®) version. With these blueprint revisions, examination items will be more evenly distributed across the four new competency areas. The new competency areas and the MPJE performance reports will take effect in January 2023. Currently, the largest portion of the exam content is in Area 1 (Pharmacy Practice), which means when a candidate fails, they most likely have to study information related to that area. The new MPJE candidate performance report will provide candidates more specific achievement level feedback to show performance by section to guide their studying efforts after a failed attempt.

NAPLEX Passing Standard

As a reminder, NABP re-evaluates the competency statements for the NAPLEX on a regular basis; and in January 2021, NABP implemented new NAPLEX competency statements.

The standard setting process followed the implementation of these competency statements; and as recommended by NABP's Advisory Committee on Examinations and approved by NABP's Executive Committee (EC), the passing standard was revised during the December 2021 EC meeting.

The revised passing standard will be implemented in January 2023. It should be noted that 75 remains the passing score even though the NAPLEX results are now reported as pass or fail.

PCOA 2022-2023 Updates

The Pharmacy Curriculum Outcomes Assessment® (PCOA®), although no longer required by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), will continue to be offered for the remainder of the 2022-2023 academic year at no cost to the Colleges of Pharmacy or pharmacy students at the end of the didactic portion of their education. The PCOA will then be re-evaluated to determine plans for future implementation. The PCOA is offered during monthly testing windows. Colleges of Pharmacy Administrators select a three-day testing session, Monday through Friday, within a monthly testing window. Test sessions must be scheduled during the first 3 weeks of the monthly testing window.

Testing will begin in January 2023 with registration opening in October 2022. The last week of the month is reserved for student reschedules and retakes.

Scores will be released to Administrators within the first two weeks of the following month after the monthly testing window. For example, if the monthly testing window selected is January 2023, scores will be released by February 10, 2023. NABP does not issue reports directly to the students. It is important to note that while students who test outside of the test session will not be included in their respective school reports, their individual reports will be released at the next available release date. Additional information regarding test day troubleshooting, rescheduling, and additional information regarding PCOA score reports can be found in the Administrator Information section on NABP's website. The PCOA webpage will be updated to reflect these details by the week of October 3, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact me via phone at 847/391-4400 or via email at mgarrity@nabp.pharmacy. Thank you.

cc: NABP Executive Committee
    NABP Advisory Committee on Examinations
    Lemrey "Al" Carter, Executive Director/Secretary
    Lee C. Vermeulen, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
    Jan Engle, Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education