

Protecting
Advocating
Serving

Assessment Services

SPEX[®]

SPECIAL
PURPOSE
EXAMINATION

PLAS

Post-Licensure
Assessment
System



Overview

- **Joint programs of FSMB & NBME**
- **Provides information for making decisions about physicians' ability to practice safely**
- **Special Purpose Examination (SPEX)**
 - General medical knowledge exam
- **Post-Licensure Assessment System (PLAS)**
 - Standardized, practice-specific assessment tools for use in clinical competence assessments



When are these services useful?

- **Reentry**
 - Voluntary leave or license reinstatement
- **Licensure by endorsement**
 - “10 year rule”
- **Disciplinary or investigative process**
 - Investigation, consent order/stipulated agreement, board ordered as result of hearing
- **Questions about clinical performance**
 - Red flags: complaints, lawsuits, peer review



Special Purpose Examination (SPEX)

- **Test of general medical knowledge for undifferentiated practice**
- **Content = “live” USMLE Step 3 items**
- **Administration**
 - One-day (6 hours)
 - Multiple-choice questions only
 - Only given at Prometric test centers in U.S. & Canada
- **Free take for board members**

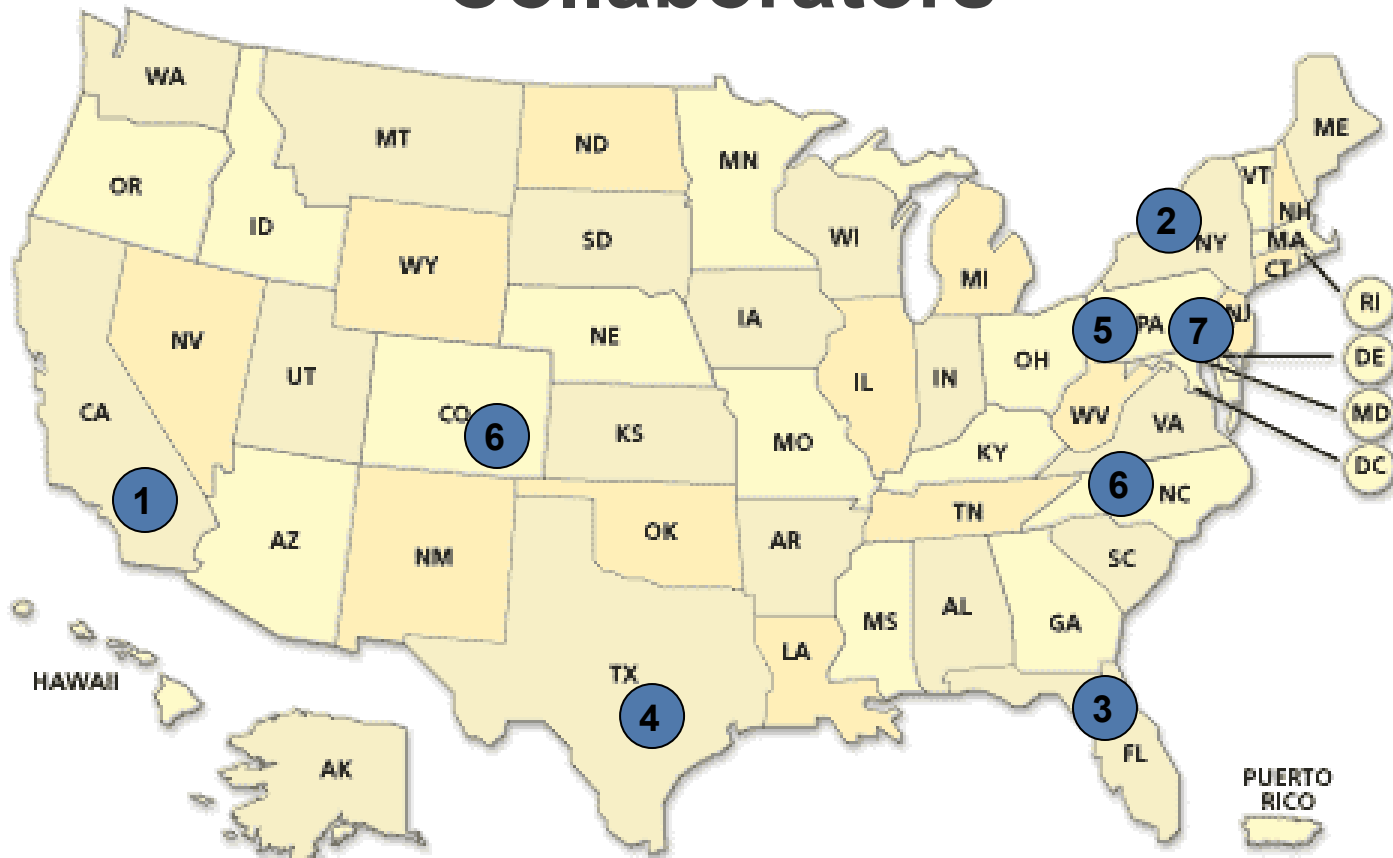


SPEX Application Methods

Self-Nominated	Board-Sponsored
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must hold an active, unrestricted license• Exam taken independent of approval from a board• Scores reported to examinee <u>only</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must hold or <u>have held</u> an unrestricted license• Board directly approves request to take SPEX• Scores reported to examinee <u>and</u> board



Post-Licensure Assessment System (PLAS) Collaborators



1 - PACE (UC San Diego)

2 - FL Competency Advancement (U of FL)

3 - KSTAR (Texas A&M Univ)

4 - LifeGuard (PA)

5 - CPEP (CO & NC)

6 - Drexel Reentry (PA)



PLAS Assessment Tools

PLAS Standardized Tools	Other Tools used by Collaborators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCQ exams<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clinical science subject exams<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Clinical Neurology○ Family Medicine○ Medicine (Internal Medicine)○ Obstetrics & Gynecology○ Pediatrics○ Psychiatry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical record reviews• Clinical interviews• Peer (preceptor) assessment and feedback• Patient evaluations (simulated or standardized patients)• Case-based evaluations of care• Oral clinical exam• Cognitive function screening• Health screen

Benefits of Assessment for State Boards

- **Objective, defensible assessment tools**
 - Assessment of medical knowledge, clinical judgment and case management skills
- **Multiple assessment modalities**
 - Identify strengths and weaknesses
- **Integration with educational programs**
- **Ultimate licensure decision still at board's discretion**



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Thank you!

Questions?

