Newer Approaches to Medical Student Assessments

Bruce P. Bates and Melanie V. Nelson

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Aligning Assessment with Curriculum

Customized Assessment Services The Global Evaluation Management System

Melanie V. Nelson Program Manager National Board of Medical Examiners®

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Overview

- Introduction to NBME:
 - Customized Assessment Services (CAS)
 - Global Evaluation Management System (GEMS®)
- Fast facts about each platform
- Examples of how each online tool can be used to support creative assessment planning
- Future directions for CAS and GEMS

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NBME Assessments for Medical Education

Subject Examination Program

- Comprehensive Basic Science
 Comprehensive Clinical Science



Online Platforms for Creatina. Managing and Delivering Exams

- Customized Assessment Services
- Global Evaluation Management System

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Key Features of CAS

- Online tests customized to fit the curriculum
- Secure pool of 10,000+ items commonly taught in basic science coursework
- Detailed test specifications using USMLE® Step 1 content hierarchy
- 31 NBME pre-designed organ system blueprints to fit integrated courses
- Customizable score reporting categories
- Item analysis group statistics provided for comparison with USMLE Step 1 reference group
- Online review of item analysis statistics along with full item text

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Building a Customized Test



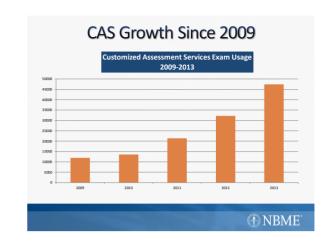


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Who Uses CAS?

- Currently 79 institutions
 - 68 allopathic
 - 2 osteopathic
 - 9 international
- Includes 11 of the 16 schools accredited by the LCME since 2007
- 350+ faculty have access to the system

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How is CAS Used?

- Exams have been created for:
 - integrated courses
 - end-of-course assessment
 - end-of-year evaluations
 - problem-based learning
 - progress testing at set intervals
 - other educational objectives
- In 2013, 350 customized tests were created and administered.

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CAS Benefits - Institutions

- Assessments aligned with curriculum
- Item bank that includes multi-disciplinary clinical vignettes
- Possible contribution to overall improvement in USMLE Step 1 performance
- Customized student and school reports to assess student learning and curriculum

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CAS Benefits - Faculty

- Exposure to carefully vetted high-quality items
- Use of items that assess students' ability to apply their knowledge
- Structured approach to creating a test blueprint
- Time saver more efficient than writing own items

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CAS Benefits - Students

- More exposure to and practice with USMLE item types
- Access to high quality items that assess application of knowledge
- Benchmarking against other students in testing group
- Feedback identifying areas of strength and weakness

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Innovative Uses of CAS

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Cumulative Achievement Test (CAT)

- Year 1 and Year 2 curriculum: The Foundations of Medicine and Health
 - Six multi-discipline integrated blocks
 - After initial block, the remaining five comprise basic science education and are integrated across entire biological systems complemented by:
 - Clinical immersion experiences
 - Early contact with patients
 - Simulated clinical experiences

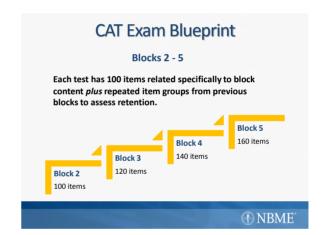
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CAT at Case Western

- Medical knowledge judged primarily through essay exams in order to drive thinking and learning, but
 - Recognize that experience with MCQs is important for licensure testing purposes
 - local MCQ exams are developed
 - Cumulative Achievement Tests are built using CAS to assess retention of basic science across continuum
 - administered at end of Blocks 2 through 5

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CAT at Case Western

Test Administration/Feedback

- Tests are low stakes (no grade).
- Students are required to sit for each test.
- Only student and student's advisor see CAT score report.

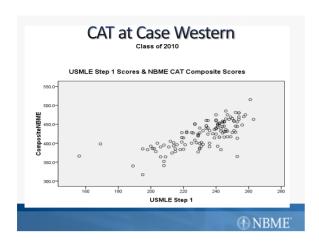
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CAT at Case Western

Performance Results

- Able to advise students in bottom quartile, especially those who are "repeaters"
- Aggregate scores on CAT provide the best correlation with Step 1 scores

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Innovative Uses of CAS - Future

The University of Texas System's *Transformation in Medical Education* (TIME) Initiative

- Eleven schools (6 colleges, 5 medical schools)
- New model of premedical + medical education
 - True continuum, shortened duration
 - Competency-based
 - Reformulated coursework: shift some biomedical science into college years



Innovative uses of CAS - Future

Approach to Test Development

Need to standardize competencies (including medical knowledge) at the transition from college to medical school→CAS

- Representatives from 11 schools
- Used Step 1 content outline to categorize topics:
 - 1. Especially appropriate / full coverage expected
 - 2. Appropriate as examples &/or basic principles
- Systematic coverage will occur on medical campus
- Consensus document = CAS exam blueprint
- Faculty group to select items
- Will develop multiple forms



Global Evaluation Management System



An Integrated Platform for Creating, Managing and Delivering Your Examinations



About GEMS

- Introduced in July, 2012 on a limited basis to US medical schools
- Now extended to medical schools and other health profession programs worldwide
- Provided in collaboration with Internet Testing Systems, NBME's technology partner for webbased testing

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Key Features

- Collaborative tools for creating, classifying, editing, and reviewing items
- Capability to import items, media and statistics from local item banks
- Limitless item classification
- Support for 49 languages
- Robust data feed component
- iPad test delivery option

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Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

- Curriculum
 - Overall focus on principles of comprehensive care with emphasis on thinking and critical analysis of information
 - Year 1 basic sciences organized into 9 conceptual/organ system themes
 - Year 2 themes focus on attention to and understanding of pathophysiology
- Starting January 2013, tests created across both years to assess performance in all themes



Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

- Pilot conducted in 2013 using Neurosciences theme
- Purpose:
 - To determine where students (especially consistently low 1-2%) were having difficulty studying
 - To identify strategies to strengthen curriculum based on competencies

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Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

- Items were created and multiply tagged according to:
 - Bloom's Taxonomy classification available in GEMS
 - Local learning objectives imported into GEMS
- Test divided equally into thirds with items tagged for remembering, understanding and analyzing
- Classifications used as score categories for student feedback



Using GEMS to Improve Learning Albany Medical College

- Mid-term (Nov 2013) and Final (December 2013) exams administered to 142 and 138 Year 1 students, respectively
- Faculty used feedback to help resource students and improve learning
- Pilot was a success same approach now being used for all themes
- GEMS testing also being expanded to Physician Assistant Program

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Using GEMS to Improve Learning Albany Medical College

What's Next

- Hope effort translates to better Step 1 scores and improved critical reasoning in clinical years
- Hold twice-yearly combined clerkship/theme director meetings to better assess integration of material
- Use GEMS "editor review" of items feature to enable clinical faculty to:
 - ⊕ comment on items used in Years 1/2
 - see how material is taught so that concepts can be emphasized in Years 3/4

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Where are CAS and GEMS Going?

BUILD A TEST BATTERY

Late March, 2014



- Select one or more subject or CAS exams to be administered to the same group of students in one test session.
- Create CAS "modules" that augment the content covered by subject exam that might be more reflective of local curriculum

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Where are CAS and GEMS Going?

- CAS addition of clinical science items
 - Build exams to assess performance in longitudinal clerkships
 - Expand to other health education programs, such as Physician Assistant or Pharmacy
- New online test management platform that combines both GEMS and CAS
 - Create a single exam using NBME content and your content

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Where are CAS and GEMS Going?

- GEMS add new USMLE item types
 - Analysis and interpretation of literature
 - pharmaceutical ads and research abstractsIntegrated cases
 - Unfolding multi-item sets assessing new tasks, e.g., admission orders, differential diagnosis

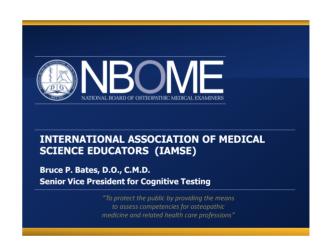
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For More Information:

- Customized Assessment Services: customtest@nbme.org
- Global Evaluation Management System: gems@nbme.org
- Visit the NBME website at <u>www.nbme.org</u>

Thank You!

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National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners



Objectives

- Describe the Mission and Assessment Products of the NBOME
- Describe the construct and purpose and Use of COMAT examinations
- Appreciate the correlations of the psychometrics of COMAT
- Describe Future directions of COMAT
- · Outline the potential of a new product CDM

Mission



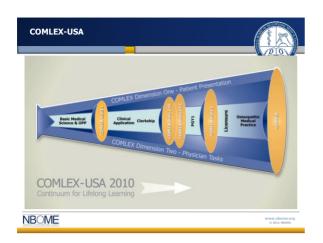
To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related healthcare professions

National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

NBOME

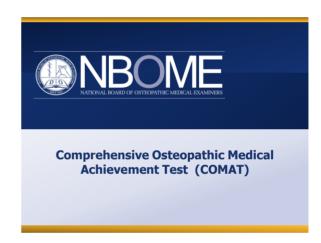
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COMAT Subject Test Development Committees



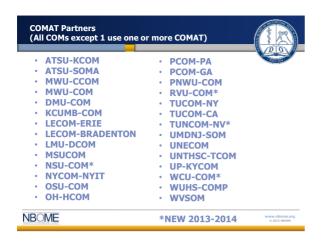
- · Seven (7) Core Clinical Disciplines designed for end-ofclerkship/clinical rotation or course evaluations (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB-GYN, OPP, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery) each with own panel of SMEs and pretesting
- Osteopathically distinctive assessments; Content Blueprint reflects development of the subject and consensus "best practice" guidelines for high frequency/high impact presentations
- Online adaptability and flexibility web delivery
- **Proctored and secure**

NBOME

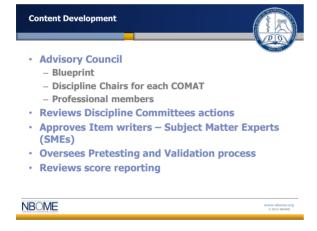
Core Exams

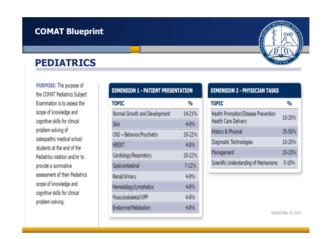
- · Family Medicine
- · Internal Medicine
- · OB-GYN
- · OPP
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery
- · 10-15 forms
- Blueprint designed
- Validity and reliability referenced
- · EBM referenced
- · SME written
- SME reviewed
- Pretested
- · Psychometrically reviewed
- · Web-based delivery via ITS
- Site proctored

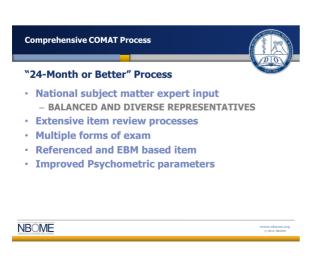
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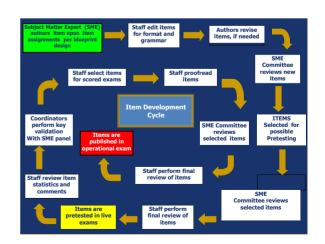
















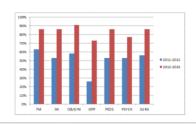
- WEB INFORMATION
 - BLUEPRINTS
 - COMAT OBJECTIVES BY DISCIPLINE
 - LEARNING RESOURCES BY DISCIPLINE
 - PRACTICE EXAM

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COMAT Usage Between 2011/2012 and 2012/2013

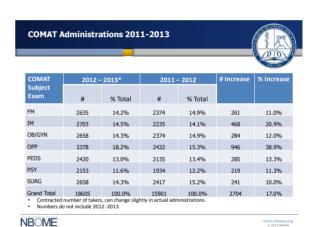


• Percent increase in COMs using COMAT as a grade determinant for their students



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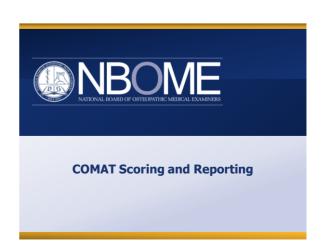
Number of Takers by Subject - 2011 to 2013 1600 1400 1000 2011 800 2012 600 **2013** 400 200 IM OB OPP PFD PSYCH SURG FM **NBOME**

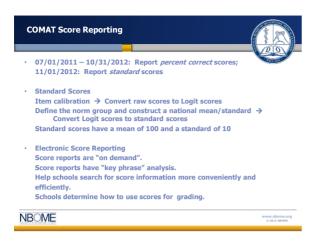


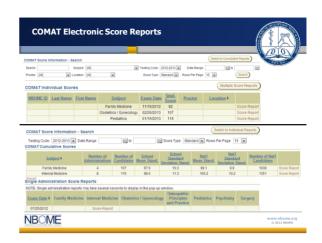


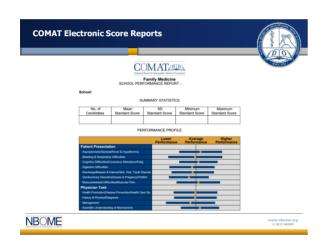
- increases continuously 29% last year;
- The student performance stats are stable and more schools report using COMAT exam scores for higherstakes decisions;
- Electronic score reporting and national-normed standard score for student and school was launched in November 2012 including performance profile and key phrases reporting;
- Quality of COMAT exams meet or exceed the industry standard.

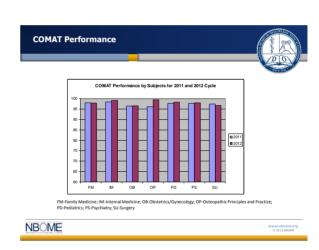
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- The COMAT subject exam performance is <u>moderately correlated</u> with performance on COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE ranging from .43 to .63.
- The more COMAT subjects a student takes the stronger the correlation.
- COMAT performance had a <u>moderate correlation</u> with ABEM (Emergency Medicine) Certification performance (publication in progress)
- All COMAT subjects' performance together as predictors explained about 51% variance of Level 2-CE performance, which was similar to what the NBME reported for their subject examinations and the USMLE Step 2-CK examination (Zahn, et al., 2012).
- Future research will look at how COMs participate in the COMAT subject examinations, how COMs utilize COMAT as part of student assessment, and how these decisions might influence students' performance on the COMLEX-USA examinations.

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FYI



- Test Enhancement
- Additional Pretesting
- Greater use of clinical scenarios
- Test Application > Recall
- Expand video encounters, heart and lung sounds, imaging and photo exhibits
- iPad/Tablet Option
 - Discussion with vendor
- COMAT Emergency Medicine Planning in Process
 - Blueprint completed and SMEs constructing items for pretesting – Target 2015 for Implementation
- COM Survey
 - Additional subject areas, reports, technology, test integrity



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COMLEX-USA Key Features Assessment

A Focus on Assessing Physician Competency in Clinical Decision-Making

Key Features Model



Disclosure

- The Key Feature/Clinical-Decision assessment is modeled after the work of Georges Bordage, MD, PhD, and the Medical Council of Canada.
- The model remains in development and pilot testing and has NOT yet been adopted by the NBOME.

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rww.nbome.org ⊕ 2013 NBOME Adopted - Medical Council of Canada



1992

- Replaced Patient Management Problems
- Supplements MCQ as the basis for licensure
- Less pattern recognition / recall /cueing from the answer options
- Requires <u>application</u> of knowledge to specific situations
- Constructed around <u>Critical Decision Points</u> for assessing a patient presentation – what to consider/do/not do
- Critical Decision Points are called Key Features

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WWW.nbome.org ⊕ 2013 NBOME

Key Feature Scenario Based



Given a patient who presents with...

- What are the challenges associate with the presentation?
 - What are the likely difficulties candidate would encounter?
 - What are the critical errors that could be made?
 - What are diagnostic or management challenges that must be considered?
 - What are the cost-effective/resource utilization or system-based challenges?
- · Only the critical points or actions

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Key Features are NOT...



- Not the entire process or each step in the diagnostic/management algorithm
 - Just the key decision points
- Not a reach for doing all things to all
 - Collecting too much data or doing too many things (being thorough) does not equate improved Dx/outcome
 Hatala 1998
 - Is an indicator of uncertainty
 - Elstein, Shulman and Sprafka 1978
- Not knowledge alone (describe the S&S of DVT)
 - Instead given a patient presenting with...
 - Recognize DVT
 - Order the following
 - Manage with

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Exam Clinical Councils 20 25 acres

Clinical Scenario - 30-35 cases

Each case has 2-5 questions

Aimed at leading dx/consideration; diagnostic steps (H&P, lab, imaging, etc.) and/or management/follow-up

Responses

Short answer: fill in the blank (e.g. Leading Dx)
Menu: select X# from a list of 15-20 that may include correct, no harm options as well as "KILLER" options
Extended write in: List up to X# (lose credit of exceed #)

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EXAMPLE: 3rd Trimester Bleeding



Given a woman experiencing third-trimester painless transvaginal bleeding, the candidate will:

- KF 1 Consider Placenta Previa as a leading diagnosis
- KF 2 Avoid performing a pelvic examination
- KF 3 Avoid discharge home
- KF 4 Order Pelvic ultrasound

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What steps will you take now?



You may select up to three. Select 13 if no steps are indicated.

- 1. Artificially rupture membranes
- 2. Cervical Swab for Chlamydia
- 3. CBC
- 4. CT abdomen
- 5. Cross and match for transfusion
- 6. Discharge home to return if bleeding worsens
- 7. TNR
- 8. Pelvic Ultrasound
- 9. Manual Pelvic Examination
- 10. PTT
- 11. Vaginal probe ultrasound
- 12. Vaginal swab for group B streptococcus
- 13. No active steps are needed

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Psychometric Advantage Per MCC



- · Face validity from Clerkship Directors
 - 92% agreement with existing KFs
- Reliability from adequate sampling (30-35 cases)
- Content validity allows a more precise assessment of key decision points
- · Varied formats of response options
 - Allows focused scoring
- · Fidelity and discrimination power
 - Efficient means of identifying weaker candidates

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vww.nbome.or ⊕ 2012 NBOME

Dissemination



- 1991 College des Medicine du Quebec
- 1992 Canadian Medical Schools
- 1993 College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan
- 1995 American College of Physicians (MKSAP)
- 1996 American College of Colon and Rectal Surgeons
 - 9 cases 30 KFs; Crb α = .95 overall
- 1997 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- · Swiss National Examination Board
- 2002 Hatal & Norman (Crb α = .49) Clerkships
- · 2005 German Medical Schools

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Development at NBOME



- Engaged consultant Georges Bordage, MD, PhD
- Assembled initial SME Task Force Panel Face-to-Face and virtual tutorial and engagement
- · Case selection per Blueprint and defined KFs
- Case writing and review 44 cases prepared
- · Pilot testing phases beginning
 - Acceptance testing
 - Logistics testing (CBT administration and scoring)
 - Pre-testing
- Expand SME panel; Further case development 130 cases
- · GOAL: Implement 2017 if Pilots successful

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