

**LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK  
System Manual**

**GME – USMLE STEP III – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE)**

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**SCOPE:**

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) adopts this policy for the following selected licensed entities:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospital     | <input type="checkbox"/> LVHN Surgery Center – VNA Road       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospital – Dickson City | <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Home Care              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospital – Hazleton     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospice                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocono VNA / Hospice                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Hospital – Schuylkill   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Home Care – Schuylkill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LVHN Children’s Surgery Center        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh Valley Home Care – Hazleton   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LVHN Surgery Center – Tilghman        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Skilled Unit            |

Graduate trainees (medical and dental residents and fellows) of Lehigh Valley Health Network

**LINKS TO ATTACHMENTS:** N/A

**LIST OF ASSOCIATED FORMS:** N/A

**DISCLAIMER:**

This policy and the implementing procedures are intended to provide a description of recommended courses of action to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and/or operational standards. It is recognized that there may be specific circumstances, not contemplated by laws or regulatory requirements that make compliance inappropriate. For advice in these circumstances, consult with the Departments of Risk Management and/or Legal Services, as appropriate.

**REVIEW:**

Origination: 7 / 2005

Review / Revision: 9 / 2020

**Approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee**

<b>Approved by:</b> Joseph Patruno (Physician)	<b>Approval Date:</b> 09/27/2023
<b>Version:</b> 4	<b>Publication Date:</b> 09/27/2023
<b>Original Creation Date:</b> 07/11/2005	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 09/27/2026

**I. POLICY:**

The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine licensing regulations require all resident physicians participating in an ACGME accredited training program to pass the USMLE Step III exam prior to beginning the Post Graduate Year (PGY) three (3) level of training.

It is the institutional policy of Lehigh Valley Health Network that all allopathic resident physicians must take the USMLE Step III exam during their PGY-1 year of training prior to being offered a PGY-2 position.

Resident physicians who have not successfully passed the USMLE Step III exam by February 28 of their PGY-2 year of training will not be offered a PGY-3 position in a training program at Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Individual residency programs may have specific requirements for USMLE Step III which must be adhered to in addition to the institutional requirement.

Exceptions to this policy can be made by the DIO for extraordinary circumstances and every effort to take USMLE Step III at the earliest possible time must be made\*.

***Given the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration at both the state and federal level as well as the reopening of testing centers to pre-pandemic levels, the previously approved COVID-19 Pandemic Exception has been rescinded. In the event of another disaster-level event, the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) will provide guidance if another exception will be implemented.***

**II. DEFINITIONS: N/A**

**III. PROCEDURE:**

The resident program director has authority over and accountability for the operation of the residency program. The program director ensures that the residents achieve the learning objectives of the program through supervised patient care and clinical teaching. Therefore, it falls on the program director to determine whether a resident has fulfilled the requirements of their PGY year. These waivers will allow the GMT to advance in their training, as their skills allow, and take the USMLE when the exam is available. Submission of exam results will be required if a licensee later renews at a higher level and upon application for an unrestricted license.

**IV. REFERENCES: N/A**