



Policy on validity time for USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2, the AMC MCQ and PLAB Part 1

Policy Statement	Passes in USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 (Clinical Knowledge), the Australian Medical Council's MCQ (MCQ) or PLAB Part 1 are valid for entry into NZREX Clinical for five years from the date each examination is passed.
Rationale	Section 15(1)(c) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) states that an applicant may be registered only if they are competent to practise within the scope of practice.
Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A prerequisite for NZREX Clinical is a pass in USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 (Clinical Knowledge), the MCQ or PLAB Part 1 within the previous five years of the date of the NZREX the candidate is applying to sit, as proof of medical knowledge.2. Candidates who do not achieve an overall pass at NZREX Clinical and apply for a further attempt must ensure that their passes in USMLE Steps 1 and 2 (CK), the MCQ or PLAB Part 1 are valid.3. Candidates who do not receive an overall pass in NZREX Clinical will be advised of their USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 (CK), the MCQ or PLAB Part 1 validity when receiving their examination results letter.4. If the time from when the candidate passed the USMLE Steps, the MCQ or PLAB Part 1 has expired past the five year validity point, the candidate must re-sit USMLE or the MCQ.5. Under ECFMG rules, a candidate may not re-sit a USMLE step once they have passed it. However, Council requires that at the time of sitting NZREX Clinical, the USMLE pass must have been acquired within the previous five years. Council deems this the maximum length of time for the skills to stay current with the candidate. The Council has an agreement with the ECFMG that addresses these conflicting rules and ECFMG allows NZREX Clinical candidates to re-sit the USMLE Steps should they fall outside the five year time frame.6. Candidates wishing to re-sit USMLE Steps must include with their application a letter from Council addressed to the ECFMG confirming that the applicant has applied to sit NZREX Clinical and outlining Council's policy for the validity period for USMLE Steps 1 and 2.