

STEP 1 PASS/FAIL- EFFECT ON INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES

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OBJECTIVES

With step 1 becoming pass/fail, along with passing in the first attempt, the important criteria to match into competitive residency programs are as follows-

- BETTER STEP 2CK SCORE
- RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
- US CLINICAL ELECTIVES
- PERSONAL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- GOOD MSPE FROM DEAN'S OFFICE
- OUTSTANDING PERSONAL STATEMENT

SUMMARY

Step1 exam is the first step towards USMLE journey for most IMGs. Though the original purpose was to provide an objective basis for medical licensing, it is used extensively for screening residency applications. This poster provides an overview of the effect of transition of Step 1 to pass/fail format for IMGs.

INTRODUCTION

A good step 1 score has been important for IMGs to have a distinctive application from US graduates as most apply with just step 1 score. Step 1 exam has been the standard exam to compare students across the globe irrespective of the medical school attended. With step 1 in pass/fail format, other aspects of application hold more importance than before.

METHOD

An extensive review of literature has been done from various databases like PubMed and science direct and the results are mentioned below.



Figure IM-1

Internal Medicine
Percentage of Programs Citing Each Factor And Mean Importance Rating¹ for Each Factor in Selecting Applicants to Interview (N=164)

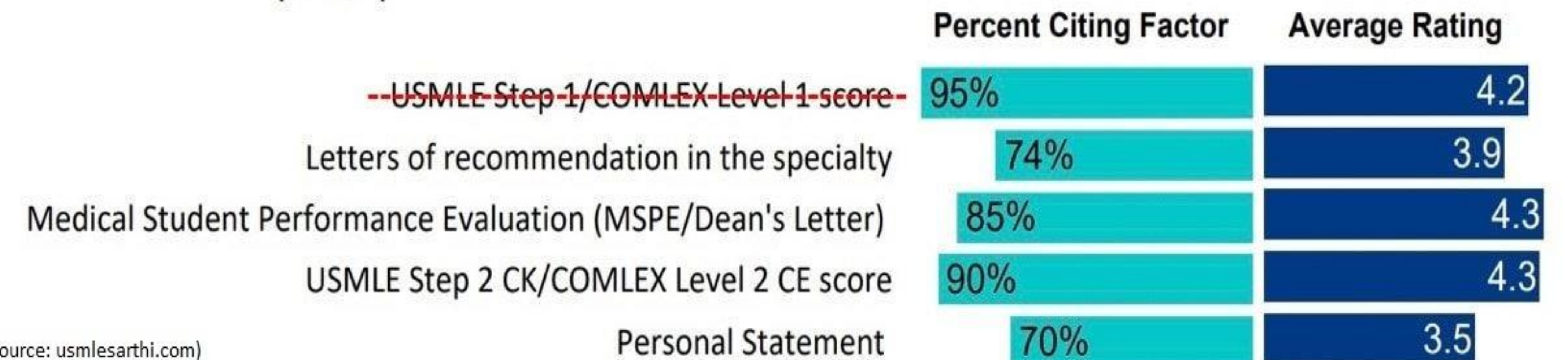


Fig 2 (Source: usmlesarthi.com)

RESULTS

Review of literature shows that step 1 in pass/fail format may be beneficial in short term but may affect the percentage of IMGs matching in the coming years because of lack of a standard metric tool to screen the students across the globe irrespective of the medical school attended.

CONCLUSION

- IMGs have the pressure to improve step 2ck score, US clinical experience and research.
- Importance of good letters of recommendation, publications and MSPE will increase among the IMGs to be able to match into competitive specialties.

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