

**From:** Brown, Rachel M.

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012 3:48 PM

**To:** UMHS - MU Med School 2013

**Cc:** Martin, Alison; Doty, Jennifer; Rachow, Jennifer A.; Gay, John W.; Graves, Gina G.

**Subject:** FW: USMLE Step 2

I don't want to panic anyone (and don't see why this should cause panic in any case BUT I know there's probably a lot of anxiety around). On the other hand, I don't want to withhold potentially helpful information. So – here it is –

This is a survey (just sent out today) done by AAMC/ERAS of residency programs, asking if they want Step 2CK and CS scores back 1) before they decide who to interview and 2) before they decide how to rank. People with my job have heard that more and more programs want scores before they decide whether to interview, and asked for information. We have always known that ranking (at some programs) might be related to step 2 scores.

My reading of this study, for what that's worth, leads me to the following take homes –

1. Step 2 CS doesn't appear to matter much for interviews or ranking, unless you're student who has had LOTS of problems
2. Step 2 CK doesn't matter for interviews or ranking for most programs in most specialties
3. When it does matter, Step 2 CK matters more for ranking than for interviews
4. Step 2 CK matters more if your step 1 score is lower, or you've had academic issues
5. Step 2 CK seems to matter more for less competitive specialties, probably because some of the people applying are less competitive
6. Programs make their own rules, and don't always share
7. It sometimes helps to make a phone call to the program to ask for information – they may tell you things they haven't published
8. It sometimes helps to call a program and express interest – they might decide to interview you when they otherwise wouldn't have.

Although the authors conclude that Step 2 CK doesn't matter more than it used to, I'm not sure how they know that from the study design, which is cross sectional, not longitudinal.

I hope this helps. Please call if you want to discuss. People with my job, with support from the student AAMC reps, are lobbying for a centralized resource similar to the MSAR for residency programs, which will include such data by program. I don't think it will happen before you don't need it anymore.

All the best

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