During May/June 2017, each Block III student will participate in a full-day Care of Patients Gateway Examination as a requirement for graduation. As a Block III student, you have been registered to take this Block III Care of Patients Gateway Examination. The introductory email with this document provides your date, time and location for testing. Your examination will take place at the Learning and Assessment Center (LAC) located in East Fee Hall on the East Lansing campus.

The purpose of the exam is to assess essential clinical skills that are the foundation of clinical practice and critical for a successful first year of residency. You will complete several clinical encounters portraying common patient care situations during this exam. The clinical encounters are designed to assess the following core competencies:

- Communication skills
- Information gathering and history taking
- Focused physical examination/recognition of common abnormalities
- A post-encounter task which could include:
  - A chart of differential diagnosis and supporting evidence (DiffInE)
  - A soap-style note
  - A medication script
  - A reflection
- Preparation for a procedure (i.e., informed consent, aseptic technique)
- Working as a member of a team/receiving feedback

Station scenarios in each room may involve standardized patients (SPs), simulators, or both. On the door of each station will be a description of what you are expected to accomplish in the room. To see a video about the exam and to access exam preparation resources, including examples and checklists for many of the required tasks, please go to the College Assessment website at: http://cwa.chm.msu.edu/ Students who have done well on this exam report that these resources were essential to their success.

Though there are significant differences between the Gateway and the USMLE Step 2 CS examination, both assess the core clinical skills emphasized in our curriculum. Students who do well on our exam generally do well on the USMLE Step 2 CS exam. The Block III Clerkship Directors and faculty have established a pass score for the Care of Patients Gateway exam. You must participate in this exam on your assigned day, complete all stations and tasks, and demonstrate passing performance as set by the Block III committee.

**Students who fail the exam:**

**Students who take the exam but do not demonstrate the minimal competency determined by the Block III Committee will be required to pass a Gateway Remediation Examination on August 14th or 15th, 2017 at the CHM Simulation Center located in the Secchia Center on the Grand Rapids Campus. Students must not schedule away electives or other exams on these dates. Students who do not pass the remediation examination must complete an additional four-week Clinical Remediation Graduation Requirement early in their 4th year.**

**Students who do not take the exam:**

**Students who do not take this exam or are on an excused leave will be required to participate in the next administration of the Block III Care of Patients Gateway Exam scheduled in May/June, 2018.**
Below are additional guidelines and information related to the examination you will be expected to know and follow:

1. This is a required examination that emphasizes important clinical skills necessary for clinical practice; we are concentrating on competencies we expect of all our graduates. In order to pass this CHM requirement every third year student must participate in the Care of Patients Gateway Examination, complete all stations, and demonstrate passing performance.

As with the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills exam, you are not to share facts about the cases with peers or others so we can maintain the integrity of the cases developed solely for this examination. The faculty will use aggregated and anonymous examination results for program evaluation purposes and to refine future events like this one. In addition, each room will be videotaped for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating consistency between cases and standardized patients.

2. Professional Behavior – It is expected that you will examine and treat Standardized Patients (SP’s) with the same professionalism as you would real patients. There will be no conversation during the exam with anyone except the supervising faculty and staff. Proctors will record occurrences of problematic behavior.

3. Wear your white lab coat, name tag and MSU or hospital-issued picture ID. Without picture ID, you will not be allowed to participate in the Gateway exam. Other than your car keys, a pen for writing, your stethoscope, and lunch if desired (see below) DO NOT BRING ANYTHING ELSE TO THE LAC, as we cannot guarantee security of backpacks, cell phones, purses, wallets or other items. You will need to provide your PID number during the examination. KNOW YOUR PID.

4. A short break will occur at the half-way point of the exam which is around lunch time. Granola bars, cheese sticks and water will be provided. You may bring your own lunch or snack that does not require refrigeration or microwave to consume during this break. A container will be provided to collect any food you may bring. Please be sure it is in a sack/bag with your name or initials.

5. Park in MSU parking lot 91 at the corner of Hagadorn and Service Roads. There is no charge to park in this lot during the summer months.

6. Time: You are expected to be ready to begin orientation to the Gateway Examination promptly at 8:45 a.m. Once orientation has begun, no one will be allowed to enter the testing area. You must participate in the orientation in order to be examined. Times will be strictly adhered to and no conversing will be permitted once the exam begins. Please note there may be construction on highways and on campus that may extend your travel time.

7. Specifics of the exam process will be described at the orientation. There will be 10 to 12 consecutive stations where you will be responsible for history taking, physical examination, and other patient care tasks. You will have 15 minutes to spend in the station, and 10 minutes to complete a post-encounter task. The standardized patient (if present in the station) will complete a rating form of your interview and physical examination skills at the conclusion of each encounter. There will be a short break halfway through the testing session. Once all cases conclude, you will complete an evaluation where you may comment on the examination process. After completing the evaluation, you may leave the testing center. About three weeks after your exam, you can expect an email with your exam result. If you are required to take the remediation examination, your email will describe required next steps.
8. **If you have any special needs or require any special accommodations, these must be communicated IN ADVANCE** either to your Community Administrator or to John Radford (john.radford@hc.msu.edu) at the Office of College Assessment so that arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.

Please check with your Community Administrator to confirm your testing date and time.

In summary, remember to:

-- Be prompt
-- Bring your white coat, name tag, picture ID, stethoscope, pen, and lunch/snack if desired.
-- Know your PID
-- Access the College Assessment website for additional information and exam resources, including a copy of this letter. The address is: [http://cwa.chm.msu.edu/](http://cwa.chm.msu.edu/)

If you have any questions prior to attending your designated session, contact John Radford in the Office of College Assessment at 517-353-3450, or via email at john.radford@hc.msu.edu.

See you during your exam time!

Sincerely,

Margaret Thompson, M.D.  
Professor of Medicine  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Heather Laird-Fick, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Director of Assessment
How Can I Prepare for the Block III Care of Patients Gateway Examination?

The competencies you will be tested on come directly from the clinical skills curriculum and your core clerkships. The competencies are: communication skills; history taking and information gathering; focused physical examinations; SOAP-style written notes, differential diagnosis, preparation for procedures, team functioning and receiving feedback.

Block III and Clinical Skills Faculty created this exam. The tasks you may be asked to demonstrate include:

- Performing problem-focused histories and physical examinations for each of the major systems
- Standardized adult and pediatric patients and simulators will be utilized for the physical exam portions of this exam (for example: breast, testicular, pelvic simulators; for a demonstration of how to interact with a simulator go to: [http://cwa.chm.msu.edu/resources/pelvic_simulator.html](http://cwa.chm.msu.edu/resources/pelvic_simulator.html))
- Scenarios may involve adult or pediatric patients and may include standardized family members or health team members
- Delivering bad news
- Evaluating a patient in pain or in acute distress
- Chronic disease follow up
- Educating a patient
- Counseling for behavior change
- Evaluating an undifferentiated problem
- Evaluating a new problem
- Preparing for a procedure (i.e., informed consent, aseptic technique)
- Determining and communicating an initial plan (tests to order, medications to administer, writing a prescription)

Unlike the Block II Gateway exam, Block III Care of Patient Gateway stations do not specifically state the type of exam you will be asked to perform in the room i.e.: cardiac or neuro. The doorway information will provide a brief description of the patient’s presenting complaint or circumstances, and tasks you are to complete.

Please note:
For LIVE standardized patients (SPs), you may perform all physical examination maneuvers WITH THE EXCEPTION of corneal reflexes, breast, pelvic, genitalia and rectal examinations. If you think the case calls for one of these examinations, you should verbally indicate the need for the specific exam to the standardized patient. If the exam is clinically appropriate, the standardized patient will give you a card containing information relevant to that particular examination. (If you think more than one of the ‘banned’ examinations is called for, you should state that as well and more than one card may be presented). If the standardized patient does not present a card, the exam was not clinically indicated for the case.

Subsequent to your encounter you will be required to do all or portions of the following:

- List the differential diagnosis for a complaint and provide evidence (DiffInE)
- A SOAP-type note (progress note) which may include all or a subset of the following:
  - The patient’s history
  - Physical examination findings
  - A differential diagnosis
  - Immediate next steps or plan
- Write a prescription
- Reflect on an activity
What, specifically, can I do to prepare for the Block III Care of Patients Gateway?

- First, if you have not memorized the order and contents of the history, or the components of the physical examination, DO THAT NOW.

- The best way to prepare is to PRACTICE your core clinical skills daily in your clerkships.

- Make use of the many available resources for your review of specific communication and/or physical examination techniques.

- Access the College Assessment website (http://cwa.chm.msu.edu) and review the exam preparation resources. There is an abundance of high quality resources available on the CWA website. Part of your exam prep should include a thorough review of these resources.

- Whenever possible, ask for feedback on your history-taking and physical exam skills from the residents and attendings with whom you are working.

- Enlist your peers to practice together and give each other feedback based on your resources.

- Again, consult your resources from previous coursework and your clerkship peers and faculty as you prepare for this exam.

- Again, the CWA website (http://cwa.chm.msu.edu) has multiple resources that will be helpful to you.

- Inform your Community Administrator or the Office of College Assessment of any special needs or accommodations that you will need at the exam site.

- Do not schedule other commitments on the day of your exam nor on the scheduled dates for the remediation exam (August 14th or 15th, 2017)