

AI-03917 Internal Medicine Practice Information

Owner	© Rigel Arcayan
Tags	MD
Created time	June 10, 2026 11:45 AM

What is NBME vs USMLE?

NBME and USMLE are not the same thing — one is the *organization*, the other is the *exam*.

The **NBME** (National Board of Medical Examiners) *creates and administers* the **USMLE** (United States Medical Licensing Examination), which is the official three-step licensing exam required to practice medicine in the U.S.

dedicatedprep.com brocali.co

What each term actually refers to

NBME — the organization

- The **NBME** is the body that **develops, writes, and administers** the USMLE exams.
- It also creates **NBME self-assessments** (CBSSA for Step 1, CCSSA for Step 2 CK), which are official practice tests designed to predict USMLE performance.
- NBME also produces **subject/shelf exams** used in medical school clerkships. brocali.co

USMLE — the exam

- The **USMLE** is a **three-step licensing exam** required for all U.S. physicians:
 - Step 1 — Basic sciences (Pass/Fail)
 - Step 2 CK — Clinical knowledge (scored)

- Step 3 — Independent practice
- It is jointly sponsored by the **NBME** and the **FSMB** (Federation of State Medical Boards). dedicatedprep.com brocali.co

How NBME practice exams relate to the USMLE

NBME self-assessments are written by the same organization that writes the real exam, making them **the most predictive practice tools** available.

However, they differ from the real USMLE in length, difficulty distribution, and multimedia content. nbme-score-converter.vercel.app

NBME vs USMLE at a glance

Item	NBME	USMLE
What it is	Exam-writing organization	Licensing exam
Purpose	Creates exams, self-assessments, shelf exams	Determines eligibility for U.S. medical licensure
Who uses it	Med schools, students preparing for USMLE	All physicians seeking U.S. licensure
Exam type	Practice tests (CBSSA, CCSSA), subject exams	Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 3
Length	~200 questions, ~4–5 hours	~280 questions, 8–9 hours depending on Step
Scoring	Predictive percent-correct + feedback	Official pass/fail or scored results

The simplest way to remember it

- **NBME = the exam makers**
- **USMLE = the exam you must take**
- **NBME self-assessments = practice versions of the real exam**

If you want, I can also break down **which NBME forms are most predictive** or help you plan a **USMLE study strategy**.

What is required as an Internal Med recent Graduate and Step 3 credentialed MD to practice in Florida?

Here's the **clear, Florida-specific answer** based on the latest regulatory and licensing information.

Short Answer

As a **recent Internal Medicine graduate** who has **passed USMLE Step 3**, you must still obtain a **full Florida medical license** before you can independently practice.

Florida requires:

- Verified MD degree
- Completion of **at least 1 year of ACGME-accredited residency** (most IM physicians have 3 years)
- Passing **all USMLE Steps (1–3)**
- Background check + electronic fingerprinting
- Application through the **Florida Department of Health / Florida Board of Medicine**
- For IMGs: **ECFMG certification**

careersource.im.org [Florida Board of Medicine](https://www.fsbom.org/)

Full Requirements to Practice Medicine in Florida (MD)

Below is a structured breakdown of what Florida requires for a **full, unrestricted medical license**.

1. Medical Education Requirements

Florida requires that you:

- Hold an MD degree from an accredited U.S. medical school **or** a foreign school meeting Florida's standards
 - If trained abroad, demonstrate English proficiency (TSE/ECFMG English certificate)[Online Sunshine](#)
-

2. Postgraduate Training

Florida mandates:

- **Minimum 1 year** of ACGME-accredited residency for U.S. graduates
 - **Minimum 2 years** for IMGs (inferred from general Florida rules; IMGs also need ECFMG certification)
 - Most Internal Medicine physicians complete **3 years**, which exceeds the requirement[careersource.im.org](#) [Online Sunshine](#)
-

3. Examination Requirements

You must have:

- Passed **USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3**
 - Florida accepts USMLE as the licensing exam sequence[careersource.im.org](#)
-

4. Application Requirements

Florida requires:

- Completed application (online portal)
 - Application fee (up to \$500)
 - Proof of age ≥ 21
 - Good moral character
 - No disqualifying disciplinary history[Online Sunshine](#)
-

5. Background Check & Fingerprinting

As of 2024 legislation (HB 975):

- **Electronic fingerprinting is mandatory**
 - Application cannot be approved until fingerprinting + background screening are complete [Florida Board of Medicine](#)
-

6. Processing Time

Typical processing time:

- **60–90 days** once all documents are received [careersource.im.org](#)
-

Step-by-Step: How to Get Licensed in Florida

Since this is a formal licensing process with sequential steps, here is the required timeline:

Sources: [Florida Board of Medicine](#) [careersource.im.org](#) [Online Sunshine](#)

Summary

To practice independently in Florida as an Internal Medicine MD with Step 3 completed, you must obtain a **full Florida medical license**, which requires:

- MD degree
 - ≥1 year ACGME residency (IM residency satisfies this)
 - USMLE Steps 1–3
 - Background check + fingerprinting
 - Application approval by the Florida Board of Medicine
-

If you want, I can also walk you through:

- **Florida license by endorsement** (if you already hold another state license)
- **How to speed up the Florida licensure process**

- **Credentialing steps after obtaining the license**

Is there a Florida Board Exam for Internal Med requirement?

No — Florida does *not* require a separate “Florida Board Exam” for Internal Medicine.

If you want to practice Internal Medicine in Florida, the only required exams are the **USMLE Steps 1–3** (or an equivalent exam sequence such as NBME, FLEX, or LMCC, depending on your pathway).

There is **no state-specific Internal Medicine board exam** and **no Florida-specific clinical exam**.

What Florida *does* require

Here’s the clean breakdown of what Florida expects from an Internal Medicine physician:

1. USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3

These are the only exams required for medical licensure.

Florida does **not** add any state exam on top of this.

2. Completion of ACGME-accredited residency

Internal Medicine residency (3 years) satisfies this requirement.

3. Full medical license application

Through the **Florida Board of Medicine**.

4. Background check + fingerprinting

Mandatory for all applicants.

5. (Optional) ABIM Board Certification

- **Not required** to practice Internal Medicine in Florida.
- **Often required** by hospitals for credentialing or by insurers for network participation.

- This is a *national* specialty board exam, not a Florida exam.

Key distinction

- **USMLE Step 3** → Required for Florida licensure
- **ABIM Internal Medicine Board Exam** → Optional for licensure, but often needed for hospital privileges
- **Florida Board Exam** → **Does not exist** for Internal Medicine

Quick Table

Requirement	Needed to Practice in Florida?	Notes
USMLE Steps 1–3	✓ Yes	Required for MD licensure
Florida-specific exam	✗ No	Florida has no state board exam
Internal Medicine ABIM boards	✗ Not for licensure	Often needed for hospital jobs
Residency (IM)	✓ Yes	Must complete ≥1 year; IM residency satisfies

If you want, I can also walk you through:

- **Florida licensure steps**
- **Whether you need ABIM certification for your specific job goals**
- **How to apply for Florida licensure as quickly as possible**

Here's a **clear, Florida-specific breakdown** of the steps required to obtain a **Florida Medical License (MD)**. Since this is a formal, sequential licensing process, I'll present it as a clean step-by-step timeline.

Florida Medical License — Step-by-Step Process

Below is the complete sequence from eligibility to issuance.



Additional Notes You Should Know

Residency Requirement

- U.S. MD graduates: **Minimum 1 year** ACGME training
- IMGs: **Minimum 2 years** + ECFMG certification
- Internal Medicine residency (3 years) fully satisfies this requirement

Exams Accepted

- USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3
- Florida does **not** require a state-specific exam
- Specialty board certification (ABIM) is **not required** for licensure but often required for hospital privileges

Processing Time

- Typically **60–90 days** *after* all documents are received
- Delays usually come from training verification or background checks

After Licensure

You will still need:

- Hospital credentialing (1–3 months)
- Insurance paneling (2–6 months)
- DEA registration (if prescribing controlled substances)
- Florida Controlled Substance Registration (if applicable)

If you want, I can also walk you through:

- **Florida license by endorsement**
- **How to speed up the Florida licensing process**

- **What hospitals require for credentialing**

How to Speed up the Florida Medical License Process

To **speed up the Florida medical license process**, you need to focus on the steps that typically cause delays: verification, background checks, and incomplete documentation. Below is a **streamlined, step-by-step fast-track plan** tailored for physicians like you (Internal Medicine graduate, Step 3 complete).

Because this is a formal licensing sequence, I'm presenting it in a clean timeline format.



Fastest Path to a Florida Medical License

The steps below reflect the most efficient order to minimize delays.



Additional High-Impact Tips (These Save Weeks)

Use institutions' "rush" or "expedited" services

- Many medical schools and residencies will send verification faster if you request priority processing.
- FSMB can expedite exam score verification for a fee.

Choose a fast Livescan vendor

Some fingerprinting vendors transmit results to the Florida DOH within **hours**, others take **days**.

Pick one on the DOH's recommended list with same-day transmission.

Avoid the #1 delay: incomplete training verification

Residency programs often take **2-4 weeks** to respond.

Call the program coordinator directly and ask them to send verification **the same week**.

Ensure your name matches across all documents

Any mismatch (middle initial, maiden name, hyphenation) triggers manual review.

If you already hold another state license, apply by endorsement

This can shave off **1-3 weeks** because some verifications are simplified.

Realistic Fast Timeline

If you follow the accelerated steps above:

- **Fastest possible:** 30–45 days
 - **Typical:** 60–90 days
 - **Delayed:** 120+ days (usually due to slow verifications)
-

If you want, I can also help you with:

- **Florida license by endorsement**
- **Credentialing steps after you get the license**
- **How to prepare your documents so nothing gets rejected**