USMLE Study Resources

There are hundreds of review resources available to students and graduates that are preparing to take the USMLE exams. Many are costly and do not cover the entire array of topics covered in the examination. MEDICC has compiled a list of test preparation resources that have proved successful in helping students pass the USMLE exams.

Although there are a lot of resources listed here, it is important to choose wisely. The most important part of preparing for an exam is a well-thought out study plan complimented by resources that fit your personal style of studying. Once you have your plan in place, choose the approach that works best for you, buy a careful selection of books and flashcards, and stick with it. Question banks such as Kaplan Qbank and USMLEWorld Qbank are also essential tools for building up your speed, stamina and accuracy.

USMLE STEP 1 RESOURCES

BOOKS

First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 Books
Most popular USMLE Step 1 test preparation books by McGraw Hill.

2011 version of First Aid for the USMLE Step 1
By: Tao Le, Vikas Bhushan, and Deepak A. Rao
This annually updated collection of the most frequently tested high-yield facts and mnemonics delivers everything you need to pass the most anxiety-provoking exam of your career.

First Aid Cases for the USMLE Step 1
By: Tao Le, Kendall Krause, Joshua Klein, Anil Shivaram
The case companion to the best-selling First Aid for the USMLE Step 1.

First Aid Q & A for the USMLE Step 1
By: Tao Le
Use with First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 and First Aid Cases for the USMLE Step 1 for the ultimate board review.

Clinical Vignettes for the USMLE Step 1
By: Editors of McGraw-Hill
This study guides delivers: a format that simulates the actual exam, 450 board-type questions, referenced answers and explanations, and material reviewed by recent, successful USMLE Step 1 test-takers.

Board Review Series Books
Books developed by the National Medical School Review. Books follow BRS format of succinct outline review of content followed by USMLE-style questions with explanations.

BRS Behavioral Science
By: Barbara Fadem
BRS Behavioral Science embodies succinct outline review of content followed by USMLE-style questions with explanations.

BRS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Marc Glucksman, PhD
The book outlines the important facts and concepts tested on the USMLE, within the context of physiologic functioning of the human body.
BRS Cell Biology and Histology
By: Leslie Gartner; James Hiatt; and Judy Strum
BRS Cell Biology and Histology offers an outline-format review for USMLE and course exams, with review questions at the end of each chapter and a comprehensive USMLE-format examination at the end of the book.

BRS Embryology
By: Ronald Dudek
BRS Embryology is a succinct outline-format review for USMLE and course exams, with USMLE-style questions at the end of each chapter and a comprehensive USMLE-style examination at the end of the book.

BRS Gross Anatomy
By: Kyung Wong Chung and Harold M Chung
BRS Gross Anatomy is a primary course review and textbook for medical students in first-year anatomy courses.

BRS Microbiology and Immunology
By: Arthur Johnson
BRS Microbiology and Immunology is a popular volume in the Board Review Series for medical students. Written in a concise, flexible, outline format, this book is intended to cover topics most commonly tested on USMLE.

BRS Neuroanatomy
By: James Fix
Designed primarily for medical and dental students preparing for the USMLE Step 1 and other examinations, this book presents the essentials of human neuroanatomy in a succinct outline format with abundant illustrations.

BRS Pathology
By: Arthur Schneider, MD; Philip Szanto, MD; Sandra I Kim, MD; and Todd Swanson, MD
BRS Pathology is an excellent preparatory review for course exams or the USMLE Step 1. Chapters parallel most standard pathology texts and each chapter ends with a review test.

BRS Pharmacology
By: Gary Rosenfeld and David Loose
This concise review of medical pharmacology is designed for medical students, dental students, and others in the health care professions. It is intended primarily to help students prepare for licensing examinations such as the USMLE Step 1 or similar examinations.

BRS Physiology
By: Linda Costanzo, PhD
BRS Physiology is an excellent aid for students preparing for the USMLE Step 1. The book concisely reviews key physiological principles and includes clinical correlations throughout to emphasize connections between basic physiology and clinical medicine.

BRS Physiology Cases and Problems
By: Linda Costanzo, PhD
BRS Physiology Cases and Problems includes 56 case-based problems and questions that encourage medical students to integrate, problem solve, and think critically.

Underground Clinical Vignettes Books
These books present 100 patient cases designed specifically to prepare students for clinical vignettes on the USMLE Step 1. Each case proceeds from chief complaint through diagnostic workup and treatment
and includes buzzwords in history taking, physical examination, laboratory tests, imaging, and pathology. The detailed cases give greater emphasis to pathogenesis, epidemiology, differential diagnosis, management, and complications and include radiologic images, photographs, tables, and algorithms. A two-page format encourages students to read the case presentation and formulate an initial diagnosis before turning the page for the answer. The book ends with twenty all-new board-format questions and answers.

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Anatomy**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Medina Kushen, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Behavioral Science**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Nadeem Hussain, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Biochemistry**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Marc Glucksman

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Microbiology I: Virology, Immunology, Parasitology, Mycology**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD and Sandra Kim, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Microbiology II: Bacteriology**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD and Sandra Kim, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Pathophysiology I: Pulmonary, Ob/Gyn, ENT, Hem/Onc**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Olga Flomin, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Pathophysiology II: GI, Neurology, Rheumatology, Endocrinology**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Olga Flomin, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Pathophysiology III: CV, Dermatology, GU, Orthopedics, General Surgery, Peds**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Olga Flomin, MD

**Underground Clinical Vignettes Step 1: Pharmacology**  
By: Todd Swanson, MD; Sandra Kim, MD; and Medina Kushen, MD

**Step Up Series**  
Published by Lippincott Williams and Wilkins

**Step-Up to USMLE Step 1: A High-Yield, Systems-Based Review for the USMLE Step 1**  
By: Samir Mehta, MD  
Step-Up is the most comprehensive systems-based review for the USMLE Step 1.

**Step-Up to the Bedside: A Case-Based Review for the USMLE**  
By: Samir Mehta, MD  
Step-Up to the Bedside, is a comprehensive case-based review book for the USMLE Step 1.

**Additional Books**  
**USMLE Step 1 Recall Buzzwords for the Boards**  
By: Brent A Reinheimer MD  
Regarded by many students as the strongest USMLE Step 1 tool on the market.

**Board Buster Step 1**  
By: Stanley Zaslau
Board Buster Step 1 is based on the guidelines of the USMLE Step 1 exam. This comprehensive Q&A book will provide a superior review resource for medical students and IMGs.

**Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology**
By: Richard D Howland PhD; Mary J Mycek PhD; Richard A Harvey PhD; and Pamela C Champe PhD
Lippincott's Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology, enables rapid review and assimilation of large amounts of complex information about the essentials of medical pharmacology.

**Flash Cards**
**Board Review Series**
**BRS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Flash Cards**
By: Todd Swanson, MD and Sandra Kim, MD
These flash cards go beyond the basic science principles of biochemistry and molecular biology to focus on clinically relevant medical biochemistry and molecular biology facts, which are tested on the USMLE and asked in medical class group sessions or on course exams.

**BRS Gross Anatomy Flash Cards**
By: Todd Swanson, MD and Sandra I Kim, MD
BRS Gross Anatomy Flash Cards take a clinically-relevant approach to the study of gross anatomy, highlighting the need-to-know information for course and USMLE Step 1 review.

**BRS Pathology Flash Cards**
By: Todd Allen Swanson, MD
BRS Pathology, flash cards serve to assist in active memorization of major diseases and conditions for each organ system.

**BRS Pharmacology Flash Cards**
By: Sandra I Kim, MD and Todd Swanson, MD
These quick and convenient flash cards will greatly assist students in reviewing and learning the important details about pharmacology.

**USMLE STEP 2 CK and USMLE STEP 2 CS RESOURCES**

Review resources for USMLE Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS are not quite as abundant as for Step 1. There is still an array of materials available to students and graduates preparing to take both Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS exams. Below are highly rated resources that have proved successful in helping students pass both USMLE Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS.

At the top of the list is another First Aid series book. *First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CS*, is highly rated resource for Step 2 CS especially for International Medical Graduates.

**USMLE Step 2 CK**
**First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CK Books**
Most popular USMLE Step 2 CK test preparation books by McGraw Hill.

**First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CK**
By: Tao Le and Vikas Bhushan
This high-yield guide is designed to prepare students for part two (of four) of the United Stated Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

**First Aid Cases for the USMLE Step 2 CK**
By: Tao Le
A unique one-case-per-page format delivers outstanding preparation for the USMLE Step 2
First Aid Q&A for the USMLE Step 2 CK
By: Tao Le
The best way to prepare for questions on the USMLE Step 2 this book contains over 1,000 board-style questions and answers with explanations for correct and incorrect answers.

National Medical Series for Independent Study
Books listed received the most recommendations from students and practicing physicians.

NMS Review for USMLE Step 2 CK
By: Kenneth Isben, PhD and Nandan Bhatt, MBBS, MD
NMS Review for USMLE Step 2 CK offers excellent preparation for the CK (clinical knowledge) component of the USMLE Step 2.

NMS Psychiatry
By: Joshua Thornhill IV, MD
NMS Psychiatry offers medical students a quick review of psychiatry in an outline format that allows rapid study and retention.

NMS Surgery
By: Bruce Jarrell, MD; R.A. Carabasi III, MD; and Eugene Kennedy, MD
NMS Surgery is a concise, outlined review of surgery.

NMS Surgery Casebook
By: Bruce Jarrell, MD
Casebook presents a series format of surgical cases that begin with a clinical scenario and go through the decision-making process of patient management step-by-step.

Other Books
Clinical Vignettes for the USMLE Step 2 CK
By: McGraw Hill
Clinical Vignettes for the USMLE Step 2 CK, is the medical student's most dynamic weapon for mastering the USMLE Step 2.

Crush Step 2: The Ultimate USMLE Step 2 Review
By: Adam Brochert
Crush Step 2: The Ultimate USMLE Step 2 Review offers you high-yield coverage of all of the specialty and subspecialty knowledge tested on the most recent administrations of the USMLE Step 2 exam.

USMLE Step 2 CS
First Aid for the USMLE Step 2 CS
By: Tao Le and Vikas Bhushan
The top-selling CS review book written by students and IMGs who recently passed

NMS Review for the USMLE Clinical Skills Exam
By: Erich Aria, MD and Nelly Amador, MD
NMS Review for the USMLE Clinical Skills Exam, offers a complete review for the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam.

Blueprint USMLE Step 2 CS
By: Carter Wahl
Blueprints USMLE Step 2 CS provides the information you need to pass the test the first time.