

Transition to ACGME

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DISCLOSURES?

- NONE
- ACGME has provided materials and information for this presentation

Points of discussion

- Overview of the Single Accreditation System
- Processes and procedures (application and site visit)
- How has this affected my program
- Success rates of programs that have applied
- Osteopathic Recognition

Single Accreditation System

- On February 26, 2014, the ACGME, American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) announced their agreement to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining a single graduate medical education accreditation system in the United States
- Allows for osteopathic residents and allopathic residents train under one system, using the milestone evaluation system (more later)

Benefits of SAS

- Goal is to improve patient health and patient care to the public by standardization and enhancement to GME.
- 4 primary goals of SAS
 1. Establish and maintain consistent evaluation and accountability for the competency of resident physicians across all accredited graduate medical education (GME) programs.

Benefits of SAS

- 2. Eliminate duplication in GME accreditation.
- 3. Achieve efficiencies and cost savings for institutions currently sponsoring “dually” or “parallel” accredited allopathic and osteopathic programs.
- 4. Ensure all residency and fellowship applicants are eligible to enter all accredited programs in the United States, and can transfer from one accredited program to another without repeating training, and without causing the Sponsoring Institutions to lose Medicare funding.

Two Pathways to SAS

- Pathway A
- Programs that are AOA-approved and have matriculated residents as of July 1, 2015, and that apply for ACGME accreditation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, will be granted “pre-accreditation status.”
- ✓ Co-program directors may be appointed (one American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)-certified and one AOA-certified).
Committees will consider an AOA-certified program director.
- ✓ Core faculty can be AOA certified

SAS Pathways

- Pathway B. Programs that are AOA-approved as of July 1, 2015 with no matriculated residents as of that date that apply for ACGME accreditation between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020, will be granted “pre-accreditation status.”
- Pathway C. AOA-approved programs that do not meet the criteria in A or B above may apply at any time for ACGME accreditation, but will not benefit from the terms of the agreement.

SAS Pre-accreditation

- Pre-accreditation is a specific status for programs and institutions established as part of the agreement among the ACGME, the AOA, and AACOM. A status of pre-accreditation signifies that an AOA-approved program has initiated the process of attaining ACGME accreditation while still under AOA approval.
- This is not synonymous with initial accreditation; specific RC must confirm standards of program are ACGME compliant
- Once pre-accredited, those who complete the program must comply with all ACGME regulations

Moving to Initial Accreditation

- Site Visit
 - Program is reviewed, interviews with program and institutional leadership, faculty members, and residents/fellows.
 - Factual report is completed
- RC reviews site visit report and if a program is in SUBSTANTIAL compliance, initial accreditation is given with or without area of improvement

Continued Accreditation

- Two years from the effective date of Initial Accreditation, the program will undergo a full site visit and review by the Review Committee. Programs deemed to be in substantial compliance with the Common and Specialty Program Requirements will achieve a status of Continued Accreditation.

Process of Initial Accreditation

- Substantial compliance with specific program requirements
- Achieved via site visit
- RC meets
- Final determination given by RC
 - Initial Accreditation
 - Continued Pre Accreditation

Continued Pre-accreditation

- Decision of RC that substantial compliance has not been achieved after review of program
- The program may reapply while maintaining continued pre-accreditation status. To do so, the program will submit an updated application that includes information on how citations from the prior review have been, or are being, corrected. Using this documentation and another site visit, if deemed necessary, the Review Committee will make another decision regarding Initial Accreditation.

Initial Accreditation

- An AOA-approved program that achieves Initial Accreditation will receive a Letter of Notification (LoN) from the Review Committee with the accreditation decision and any citations or areas for improvement.
- Two years from the effective date of Initial Accreditation, the program will undergo a full site visit and review by the Review Committee. Programs deemed to be in substantial compliance with the Common and Specialty Program Requirements will achieve a status of Continued Accreditation.

Site Visit

- Extremely important
- Site Visitors do not participate in the RC meeting or final determination of accreditation
- Site Visitors are there to advocate and promote your program
- Be transparent

Expectations

- Based on the documentation provided by the program and sponsoring institution
- Interviews used to verify existing information, clarify and explain missing or ambiguous information
- Conducted in accord with current program policies
- Again, non adversarial, educational

Expectations

Inform Review Committee accreditation decisions in a “substantial compliance” model

- Compliance assessed
- By peer review
- Against the entire set of standards
- Model not formally “weighted”
- Model not compensatory (e.g., really good performance in one areas does not offset non-compliance in another area)
- The aim is continuous improvement

Principles for site visits

- Treated as a new program to ACGME
- Can have one or two site visitors (we had 2)
- ADS
 - What is it (accreditation data system)
 - All information for site visit is gathered from this site
- At time of site visit the expectation is that the program is in substantial compliance

Principles for site visit

- Will ask residents about the program's general educational resources, such as faculty skills, interest in and availability for teaching supervision, volume and variety of patients, etc.
- Knowledge of core competencies
- Interview faculty
- Review Policies and Procedures/Goals and Objectives
 - Supervision
 - Geriatrics
 - Neuro

ACGME vs AOA Requirements

- Mostly a difference in specific language, but a great deal of commonality in expectations
- Example
 - AOA – Program evaluation and improvement
 - ACGME-Program evaluation committee with defined membership

Personal Tips for Site Visit

- Try not to be nervous
- Fully understand your Common Program Requirements
- Understand PEC, CCC, Milestones and Core Competencies
- Know ACGME “lingo”
- Prep your faculty and residents as much as you can as an educational opportunity

Personal Tips for Site Visit

- Make sure you and your coordinator are on the same page
- Supervision policies and Goals and Objectives are in binders and are consistent in appearance

Updated Data From ACGME Internal Medicine

- 14 AOA-approved programs have closed or are planning to close with no intention of applying for ACGME accreditation
- 6 AOA-approved programs are still planning to apply for ACGME accreditation but have not yet
- 28 AOA-approved programs that were also accredited by the ACGME (dual accreditation) have changed or are changing their complements to reflect a "merged" program

Updated Data From ACGME Internal Medicine

- Of the 100 programs that have applied for ACGME accreditation
 - 2 have Continued Accreditation
 - 3 have Initial Accreditation with Warning
 - 76 have Initial Accreditation (3 of those applied through the traditional pathway, meaning they did not receive Pre-Accreditation first)
 - 1 has Initial Accreditation Contingent on its Sponsor achieving Initial Accreditation
 - 1 has Continued Pre-Accreditation
 - 17 have Pre-Accreditation, and 14 already have site visits scheduled in time for the April RC meeting

Updated Data From ACGME Internal Medicine

- Osteopathic Recognition