Single Accreditation System for GME

Town Hall Meeting
DMEs and Program Directors
March 3, 2014
Key Benefits

- Ensures that the evaluation and accountability for the competency of residents is **consistent** across all GME programs, helping to ensure **quality** and **efficiency**
- Ensures that all physicians have **access** to the primary and sub-specialty training they need to serve patients
- Allows the osteopathic and allopathic communities to speak with a **unified voice** for GME to better serve the public
- Recognizes the **unique** principles and practices of DOs as integral to the U.S. health care system
- Continues to include **osteopathic-focused training programs**; AOA trained and certified physicians can serve as GME faculty
AOA/AACOM Integration into Governance and Operations of New ACGME
Timeline

- **January 2012** – AOA and AACOM met with ACGME to discuss concerns with changes to Common Program Requirements
- **March 2012** – First meeting of Joint Task Force
- **October 2012** – AOA, ACGME and AACOM boards approve parallel resolutions to pursue development of single GME accreditation system
- **July 2013** – AOA and AACOM Boards vote not to accept MOU as offered by ACGME due to lack of clarity; instructed to continue discussions toward development of single system
Timeline

• **July 2013 - January 2014** – Multiple meetings held by 3A Task Force

• **January 31, 2014** – ACGME Board approved re-issuance of modified MOU with letter of clarification

• **February 22, 2014** – AACOM Board met and approved resolution to accept MOU

• **February 26, 2014** – AOA Board approved MOU; joint announcement by the three organizations
Highlights

• All osteopathic programs to be ACGME accredited
  – Transition between 2015 and 2020
• Osteopathic principles will be codified in the single GME accreditation system
• Residents from ACGME-accredited osteopathic programs will be eligible for advanced training
• AOA and AACOM will have full membership status on ACGME Board
• AOA and AACOM will have representation on all Residency Review Committees in specialties where there are osteopathic ACGME programs
• AOA will continue to accredit GME programs through June 2020
Key Elements

- Beginning July 1, 2015, accredited AOA programs may apply for ACGME accreditation.
- AOA accredited programs in the application process will have “pre-accreditation” status with ACGME.
- DOs who complete programs with pre-accreditation status will meet ACGME initial year and fellowship eligibility requirements.
- Standards for faculty credentials will be modified such that AOA certified DOs are acceptable.
- AOA certified DOs will not automatically qualify as program directors, but may do so individually by the applicable RRC on a case-by-case basis.
Key Elements

- Some programs may require appointment of a program co-director certified by ABMS
- Programs seeking osteopathic recognition may require a program co-director certified by AOA
- ACGME accreditation standards for OPP will be added to specialty standards and will be applicable to those programs seeking osteopathic recognition
- OPTIs may apply for and be recognized as ACGME sponsoring institutions
- Any program or sponsoring institution whose initial applications are unsuccessful may reapply; reaplication fees will be waived
Clarifications

• DOs and MDs will have access to all training programs

• Additional pre-requisite education and training may be required for MDs who wish to enter ACGME residencies with osteopathic recognition
  – Osteopathic Recognition Committee to determine those requirements

• ACGME will not deny accreditation based solely on program size
Clarifications

Flexibility in Standard Interpretation

- RRCs will assess compliance with standards
- ACGME Monitoring Committee will oversee appropriate application of standards by RRCs
- AOA and AACOM will be represented on the Monitoring Committee
Clarifications

- There are some ACGME accredited programs in which DOs with only AOA certification serve as program directors
- There are a number of AOA accredited programs with DO and MD program directors who have ABMS certification only
- There will not be blanket acceptance of AOA board certification for program director qualification, but exceptions can be granted by RRCs
Clarifications

• Some currently AOA accredited programs may be required to appoint an ABMS certified co-director.

• ACGME believes there are a number of AOA accredited programs with ABMS certified faculty who would be eligible for appointment as co-director.

• Current ACGME policy allows for accreditation of pilot programs (e.g., Blue Ribbon Commission model).
Governance

• AOA and AACOM will become ACGME member organizations with same rights as existing members (AAMC, ABMS, AHA, AMA, CMSS)

• AOA and AACOM each will be entitled to four director seats, phased in to allow for staggered terms

• ACGME will create a new recognition committee to review and evaluate the osteopathic principles dimension of those programs seeking Osteopathic Recognition (15 members; 13 AOA, 2 ACGME)

• ACGME will create a new Neuromusculoskeletal Review Committee with accreditation authority over NMM/OMM programs (6 members; 5 AOA, 1 ACGME)
Governance

- ACGME bylaws must be amended before AOA and AACOM nominated directors can begin service (no later than September 2015)
- Until then, AOA and AACOM will each be permitted to send one observer to ACGME Board and RRC meetings
- The ACGME anticipates it will create a senior staff position from within the osteopathic profession to facilitate implementation
- During phase-in period, the Joint Task Force and its executive committee will continue to meet to review the progress of implementation
- AOA, AACOM or ACGME may withdraw anytime before June 30, 2020
In Summary

• Opportunity to enhance access to osteopathic medicine throughout the U.S. and potentially the world
• Goal is to enhance quality, efficiency, relevancy and innovation in post-graduate GME in the U.S.
• The partners are committed to maximize the number of quality residency programs in the U.S.
• There is great risk in maintaining the status quo, and we are stronger together
• We understand there is uncertainty and recognize this is an iterative process of change
• This is the end of the beginning...Our work toward a stronger future begins now!
Links to FAQs:

- AOA: http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Pages/ACGME-single-accreditation-system.aspx
Questions