RRC News

Anesthesiology

Special Edition: Case Logs

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New Case Log System for Anesthesiology

Background

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the RRC for Anesthesiology is updating the Case Log System. The system is changing from the current aggregate data entry to individual patient or case-based entry system, effective July 1, 2009. RRC members support this new system because of the potential to provide more accurate data. The revised system was pilot-tested and extensively reviewed.

The RRC's goal is to improve the accuracy of data regarding procedures that are completed during residency. Over time, required experiences have changed, and this system will reflect the new program requirements that went into effect in July 2008. Reporting case logs by individual patient/procedure should be more informative to residents and to their programs, and can offer a basis of comparison to the other programs. The system was developed through collaboration between RRC members and ACGME information technology staff. This iterative process solicited input from committee members including ongoing discussions about formatting, 12 months of pilot-testing, and extensive feedback and review.

All residents will be required to enter case log data using the new system beginning **July 1, 2009**. Two resources were developed to describe the system and to offer residents an opportunity to work with the new system before it goes live. These resources, with accompanying links, are described in the following sections.

Using the Tutorial for the New System

We have developed an online tutorial demonstrating the new system and it is accessible at:
http://www.acgme.org/residentdatacollection/documentation/tutorials.asp.

If you have any questions about the system, please contact our Support Center at 312.755-7464 or oplog@acgme.org.

The test site is: https://dconnect.acgme.org/residentdatacollection/
And the tutorial is available here:
http://www.acgme.org/residentdatacollection/documentation/tutorials.asp

Practicing with the New System

At this time, access to the new system is available by using a generic "dummy" ID and password. Testing the new system should enable residents to see how it functions and help educate them prior to using it for

the upcoming academic year.

When working with the new system, do not change the ID or password so it remains accessible to all programs. In addition, this is a dummy account; do not add any data that pertain to your program. Also, the data will be deleted after July 2009. The new system can be accessed from the following URL: https://dconnect.acgme.org/residentdatacollection

This is a test server and not the ACGME production system. Consequently, you may get a message indicating that there is a problem with the website's security certificate. If this happens, please click "continue to the website"; this message occurs because this is the test site and not the production site.

The ID is "resident040" and the password is "password". The data entry screen is accessed by clicking on the "case Entry" tab and then selecting the "Add" link. Feel free to add and save any test data, but keep in mind that these are generic resident data accessible to everyone.

Academic Year 2008-2009 Data

Programs may share their 2008-2009 data with the ACGME or keep them in their own system, only. The old and new systems cannot be operational at the same time; the old system has to be discontinued before the new system can commence. The ACGME does not require the submission of data from the current academic year. However, case log data from the previous system will be archived for program reference.

We will make the change to the new system on June 29th. At that time, we will archive all data currently entered and change the data entry mechanism to the new individual case-based system. Summary reports will continue to be available for the old data. However from that point on, new entries will only be possible via the new format.

Data from the New Case Logs System

Reliability is expected to take some time to achieve. This is due to how the new system is being implemented. Once we have graduates with three years of data in the new system, we will be able to generate comparative reports providing feedback to the programs and for program review by the RRC.

In the meantime, however, programs are encouraged to follow the data input process carefully. This is critical for developing a meaningful national database that has the potential to describe trends and have an impact on the creation of new program requirements.

To implement the new individual-based case entry system, ***the Case Log system for anesthesiology will be unavailable on Monday, June 29***. Any additional aggregate data that needs to be entered into the current aggregate system must be entered by that day. On June 29, we will archive all data currently entered and transition to the new individual-based entry system which will be accessible by the morning of June 30. Anyone with questions about this process should please contact the Support Center at oplog@acgme.org or 312.755.7464.