

Procedure for Processing Hospice and Palliative Medicine (HPM) Applications/Programs

HPM programs are considered *dependent* subspecialty programs.

- Dependent subspecialty programs are required to function in conjunction with an accredited specialty program.
- The continued accreditation of the subspecialty program is dependent on the specialty program's maintaining its accreditation.
- The dependent subspecialty program must be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution, and should be geographically proximate.
- ACGME will only consider HPM fellowship applications for accreditation from a sponsoring institution that also sponsors an ACGME-accredited specialty program in one of the eleven areas.

A hospice and palliative medicine program will be accredited only if the sponsoring institution also sponsors an ACGME accredited program in at least one of the following specialties: Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiation Oncology, or Surgery. (Program Requirements I.A.1)

- This requirement ensures that the sponsor of the HPM program has experience with ACGME and a basic understanding of its processes, policies, and standards. It also ensures that there will be review and oversight of the sponsoring institution by the ACGME, either via the Institutional Review Committee or the Residency Review Committee – if the sponsor is a single program sponsor.
- The HPM applicant will be required to: (a) identify which specialty program it has aligned with and (b) describe in the PIF the relationship to the specialty program.
- As dependent subspecialty programs:
 - HPM programs will have dependent accreditation statuses
 - The specialty program will be notified of all correspondence with the HPM program and vice versa.
 - If the specialty program with which the HPM program is associated has its accreditation withdrawn, the HPM program's accreditation will be administratively withdrawn.
 - If an HPM program needs to re-align and establish a new dependent relationship with a new specialty program, it must submit a new application.

The RRC for FM will review and accredit all HPM programs, regardless of which specialty the HPM program is aligned with.

- This is a new/different accreditation model than what has been done in past with other multidisciplinary subspecialties (e.g., sleep and sports medicine).
 - The new model avoids the possibility of one or two specialties accrediting a very small number of HPM programs.
 - It allows one RRC to develop expertise in reviewing and accrediting HPM programs.
 - It allows HPM programs to be reviewed in a consistent and standard way.

Access the FAQ to obtain more information about the HPM applications and programs. http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_120/62008FAQ_HPM_AA_02012009.pdf