

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

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Newsletter

Residency Review Committee for Surgery September 1999

OPERATIVE EXPERIENCE DATA VIA THE INTERNET

The Residency Review Committee for Surgery decided at the June 1999 meeting to move forward with the development of an ACGME internet system for gathering the operative experience of residents. The most significant aspects of the new system is that all CPT codes will be available and it will eliminate the need for shipping diskettes. The data will be stored in the single database at the ACGME into which residents (or coordinators) will enter the data from any computer that is connected to the internet. Residents and program directors will be able to generate reports at any time.

An alpha version of the software is expected to be ready for review by the RRC by the end of October 1999. The goal is to have the software ready for implementation by July 1, 2000.

Test versions for orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, and urology are already available on the ACGME web site. Before the beta version of the general surgery software is prepared for testing a focus group of program coordinators will be invited to the ACGME office for consultation in its development.

Programs that either have their own in-house data collection system or use a proprietary software will be able to continue with them and will continue to submit the operative experience of their chief residents through

CPT DESCRIPTIONS CORRECTED

It has been brought to our attention that several of the CPT descriptions in the list that was published a number of months ago were incorrect. The descriptions for 42825 and 42826 should have been "tonsillectomy <12 years" and "tonsillectomy >12 years," respectively. 44626 should have been "reversal of Hartman procedure."

ACGME MASTERING THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS WORKSHOP March 2-3, 2000

The ACGME is in the process of planning a workshop for residency coordinators/administrators to be held during the Mastering the Accreditation Process Workshop in Chicago on March 2, 2000. ACGME accreditation administrators would like to identify several experienced residency program administrators to work together in small group breakout sessions addressing various aspects of the accreditation process. The individuals should have significant responsibility in the daily operation of a general surgery residency program and a familiarity with the site visit process, as well as be comfortable speaking to a group of approximately 50 people.

Volunteers/recommendations should be sent to Eileen Keane, Accreditation Administrator, RRC for Surgery (via e-mail at etk@acgme.org) by December 31, 1999.

the ASCII text files currently in use.

ACGME WEB PAGE

The ACGME has had a web site [www.acgme.org] on the internet for over three years and it is constantly growing. It is an excellent resource for information about the organization and the residency review committees. All the Program Requirements (PRs) and Program Information Forms (PIFs), the latter in WORD or in WordPerfect, are available under Residency Review Committees > Specialty (e.g., General Surgery): then by choosing from the Table of Contents information on various areas is available, including the PRs and PIFs of General Surgery and all of the Subspecialties. In preparing for a site visit, programs are not receiving hard copies or a diskette with the PIFs but are asked to download the PIFs from the internet.

Also available on the General Surgery page are multiple areas concerned with the Surgical Operative Log, such as the list of CPT codes, the updates and complete version of the ACGME Operative Log Collection Software, and the list of the Defined Categories.

The most recent addition to the section on Operative Log Information is the General Surgery Operative Log Report Generator. It is a diagnostic program, similar to the one used in the ACGME office, for checking the ASCII Text Files on the diskette that is sent to the ACGME; it identifies any errors that may exist in the data on the diskette before it is submitted. The same kind of exception reports that were mailed to programs last year and this year can be generated so that corrections can be made before submitting the diskette.

Another recent addition to the web site is a list of the **General Competencies** that the

FUTURE MEETING DATES

October 28-29, 1999
 February 24-25, 2000
 June 22-23, 2000
 October 12-13, 2000
 February 22-23, 2001
 June 21-22, 2001
 October 25-26, 2001
 February 21-23, 2002

RRC MEMBERSHIP/STAFF

Recent appointees to the RRC include Dr. R. Phillip Burns who replaces Dr. Donald Trunkey as an appointee of the American College of Surgeons, effective July 1, 1999, and Drs. L.D. Britt and A. Letch Kline, who will replace Drs. Hernan Reyes and Courtney Townsend as AMA appointees, effective January 1, 2000.

The Current Members of the Committee Are:

Kirby I. Bland, M.D.
 R. Phillip Burns, M.D.
 Jack L. Cronenwett, M.D.
 Arnold G. Diethelm, M.D. (Chair)
 Lazar J. Greenfield, M.D.
 Jay L. Grosfeld, M.D.
 Carlos A. Pellegrini, M.D.
 Hernan M. Reyes, M.D.
 Siroos Shirazi, M.D.
 Jerry M. Shuck, M.D.
 Courtney M. Townsend, M.D.
 Richard E. Welling, M.D.

Staff support from the ACGME for the RRC for Surgery is provided by:

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Linda Roquet, Senior Secretary,

ACGME has approved as required components of all accredited programs. Each RRC will include these competencies in the Program Requirements and will explore ways to help programs implement them. As is evident from the list, many aspects of these competencies are already part of the educational process; the challenge is to make them explicit and demonstrate their achievement through outcome measures.

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