

Frequently Asked Questions: Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
Review Committee for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
ACGME

Question	Answer
Sponsoring Institutions	
How must the sponsoring institution provide opportunities for fellows' continuing medical education (CME)? <i>[Program Requirement I.A.3.]</i>	Opportunities for CME include stipends and time off in order to attend national/regional educational conferences, or purchase books or other CME materials.
Participating Sites	
What circumstances would warrant exceptions for geographically distant participating sites? <i>[Program Requirement I.B.3.]</i>	A participating site offering clinical experiences, which occur periodically and are not otherwise available at the primary clinical site, is a suitable exception to the requirement limiting travel time to one hour or less.
Program Personnel and Resources	
How must the program director demonstrate close cooperation between the core residency program and the fellowship program? <i>[Program Requirement II.A.3.n.]</i>	There must be evidence of collaboration and oversight from the core program director, including the integration of lectures into both the core residency and the spinal cord injury medicine fellowship curriculum and involvement of fellows and spinal cord injury medicine faculty members in activities of the core residency program.
What percentage of the faculty should participate in scholarly activity? <i>[Program Requirement II.B.6.]</i>	It is expected that at least 25% of the faculty be actively involved in scholarly activity.
What is considered sufficient size and diversity for the patient population? <i>[Program Requirement II.D.2.]</i>	The education of spinal cord injury medicine fellows must include exposure to a diverse population of patients with traumatic and non-traumatic spinal cord injuries throughout the continuum of care. It is imperative for the program to demonstrate in the documents available for program review (i.e., the program information form (PIF), materials available for the site visitor, etc.) a history of exposure to patients in this continuum.
ACGME Competencies/Systems-based Practice	

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<p>During inpatient rotations, can the fellow participate in other activities?</p> <p><i>[IV.A.3.a.)(1.)]</i></p>	<p>As long as the fellow is providing direct or indirect supervisory care for a case load of at least 8 hospitalized patients, the fellow may also participate in outpatient clinic, see inpatient consultations, or engage in scholarly activities.</p>
Fellows' Scholarly Activity	
<p>How much assigned time should each fellow devote to conducting research and other scholarly activities?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement IV.B.1.]</i></p>	<p>Each fellow should devote a minimum of one half day per week to conducting research or to other scholarly activities.</p>
Faculty Evaluation	
<p>How are residents' evaluations of faculty kept confidential if there are a small number of fellows?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement V.B.3.]</i></p>	<p>In order to maintain confidentiality, the program director should combine fellows' evaluations of faculty members with those from the core residency program.</p>
Duty Hours	
<p>Are there any non-physician licensed independent practitioners who may supervise residents?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement VI.D1.]</i></p>	<p>Advanced nurse practitioners and psychologists may supervise residents, as appropriate.</p>
<p>What is the optimal clinical workload for fellows?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement VI.E.]</i></p>	<p>The program director must make an assessment of the learning environment with input from faculty members and residents. Minimum patient loads should be eight on the spinal cord injury (SCI) unit. With experience, the fellow may progress from providing direct care to eight inpatients to supervising physical medicine and rehabilitation residents caring for patients on the inpatient SCI unit.</p>

PM_ED_02/2012