

Procedure for Processing Sleep Medicine Program Applications

According to ACGME Policy Sleep Medicine programs are *dependent* subspecialty (also referred to as 'fellowship') programs.

- Dependent subspecialty programs are required to function in conjunction with an ACGME-accredited specialty (sometimes referred to as a 'core') program.
- The continued accreditation of the subspecialty program is dependent on the specialty/core program's maintaining its accreditation.
- The dependent subspecialty program must be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution of the linked specialty/core program and should be geographically proximate.
- ACGME will only consider Sleep Medicine program applications for accreditation from a sponsoring institution that also sponsors an ACGME-accredited specialty/core program in one of five areas.

A sleep medicine program will be accredited only if the sponsoring institution also sponsors an ACGME accredited program in at least one of the following specialties: Internal Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, Otolaryngology, or Pediatrics. (Program Requirement X.E)

- This requirement ensures that the sponsor of the Sleep Medicine 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 Sleep Medicine applicant is required to: (a) identify which specific ACGME-accredited specialty/core program it will align with and (b) describe the relationship to the specialty/core program in the application.
- As dependent subspecialty programs:
 - Sleep Medicine programs have dependent accreditation statuses.
 - The specialty/core program is notified of all correspondence with the Sleep Medicine program and vice versa.
 - If the specialty/core program with which the Sleep Medicine program is associated has its accreditation withdrawn, the Sleep Medicine program's accreditation will be administratively withdrawn.
 - If a Sleep Medicine program needs to re-align and establish a new dependent relationship with a new specialty/core program, it must request voluntary withdrawal of accreditation and submit a new application.

The RRC for Internal Medicine will review and accredit all Sleep Medicine programs, regardless of which specialty/core the Sleep program is aligned with.

- This new accreditation model is being implemented for Sleep Medicine following the successful pilot which was completed for Hospice and Palliative Medicine.
- The new model avoids the possibility of one or two RRCs accrediting a very small number of Sleep Medicine programs.
- It allows one RRC to develop expertise in reviewing and accrediting these programs.
- It allows programs to be reviewed in a consistent and standard way.