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Dear Program Directors,

On September 12, 2016 the ACGME announced that residency Milestone reports would be available to fellowship program directors after a fellow starts the program. This feature is intended to help fellowship programs in meeting the following Common Program Requirement that was announced in July 2013 with an effective date of July 1, 2016:

III.A.2.a) Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow's level of competency in the required field using ACGME or CanMEDS Milestones assessments from the core residency program.

This requirement is designed to help in the “educational hand-off” from the residency into fellowship. Many residents are accepted into fellowship up to two years prior to completing residency, when the resident’s final competencies are not yet reached. These reports will help fellowship program directors in creating more accurate learning plans for their fellows. In some cases, residents enter a fellowship mid-residency. Such residents will not be expected to have achieved Level 4 in any of the sub-competencies, and upon entering a one-year fellowship, the Milestone Report can be very helpful to ensure that the learner has an appropriate learning plan.

We understand that there are concerns about sharing these Milestone reports. The most common concerns are that fellowship directors will use the information as a means of screening potential applicants and residency program directors will feel obligated to rate all graduates at Level 4 for all subcompetencies to prevent their residents from being rejected from a fellowship. The ACGME does not support the use of the Milestones for selection. To avoid this situation, Milestone reports are not available to fellowship program directors until a given fellow has matriculated into the program and has been entered into the Accreditation Data System (ADS). Through this hand-off, the residency program director is helping the fellowship director to identify areas in which a resident may need additional help or has dramatically excelled (e.g., achieved Level 5). Additionally, the Review Committees do not look at any Milestone data for purposes of accreditation.

References related to educational hand-offs are located at the end of this letter. We welcome your questions and feedback related to the Milestones and Milestone reporting. Feedback can be sent to milestones@acgme.org or directly to any member of our team (contact information can be found on the ACGME website).

Sincerely,



Laura Edgar, EdD, CAE
Executive Director



Eric Holmboe, MD
Senior Vice President

Selected References for Educational Hand-offs, Feed Forward, and Informed Self-Assessment

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