ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in General Surgery

ACGME-approved focused revision: June 13, 2020; effective July 1, 2020

Contents

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Common Program Requirements (Residency) are in BOLD

Where applicable, text in italics describes the underlying philosophy of the requirements in that section. These philosophic statements are not program requirements and are therefore not citable.

The Specialty-Specific Background and Intent text in the boxes throughout these requirements provide detail regarding the intention behind specific requirements, as well as guidance on how to implement the requirements in a way that supports excellence in residency education. Programs will note that the General Surgery FAQs companion document has been integrated into this document and, where appropriate, guidance is given on additional Review Committee resource information.

Introduction

Int.A. ***Graduate medical education is the crucial step of professional development between medical school and autonomous clinical practice. It is in this vital phase of the continuum of medical education that residents learn to provide optimal patient care under the supervision of faculty members who not only instruct, but serve as role models of excellence, compassion, professionalism, and scholarship.***

Graduate medical education transforms medical students into physician scholars who care for the patient, family, and a diverse community; create and integrate new knowledge into practice; and educate future generations of physicians to serve the public. Practice patterns established during graduate medical education persist many years later.

Graduate medical education has as a core tenet the graded authority and responsibility for patient care. The care of patients is undertaken with appropriate faculty supervision and conditional independence, allowing residents to attain the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and empathy required for autonomous practice. Graduate medical education develops physicians who focus on excellence in delivery of safe, equitable, affordable, quality care; and the health of the populations they serve. Graduate medical education values the strength that a diverse group of physicians brings to medical care.

Graduate medical education occurs in clinical settings that establish the foundation for practice-based and lifelong learning. The professional development of the physician, begun in medical school, continues through faculty modeling of the effacement of self-interest in a humanistic environment that emphasizes joy in curiosity, problem-solving, academic rigor, and discovery. This transformation is often physically, emotionally, and intellectually demanding and occurs in a variety of clinical learning environments committed to graduate medical education and the well-being of patients, residents, fellows, faculty members, students, and all members of the health care team.

Int.B. Definition of Specialty

The practice of surgery encompasses the provision of comprehensive care to the patient with surgical disorders of the abdomen and its contents, the alimentary tract, skin, soft tissues, and breast, endocrine organs, and trauma. The practice of surgery ~~It provides the foundation for~~ also encompasses the surgical evaluation and management of patients with oncologic, vascular, pediatric, and intensive care disorders. Furthermore, the practice of surgery entails adequate knowledge and experience for the assessment and requisite emergency surgical stabilization and management of severe conditions of the cardiothoracic, urologic, gynecologic, neurologic, and otolaryngologic systems and indications for specialty consultations. Comprehensive care includes (but is not limited to) the evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment (both operative and non-operative) of surgical disorders, as well as the appropriate disposition and follow-up of the patients with those disorders. In order to provide optimal comprehensive care, the surgeon must effectively function in interprofessional and, often, multidisciplinary teams, frequently in a leadership role.

Int.B.1. The goal of a surgical residency program is to prepare the resident (1) to perform the role of a surgeon at the advanced level expected of a board-certified specialist, and (2) to direct interprofessional and multispecialty teams necessary for the care of surgical patients. The education of surgeons in the performance of general surgery encompasses (1) didactic instruction in the basic and clinical sciences of surgical diseases and conditions; (2) education in procedural skills and operative techniques; and (3) preparation for the life-long provision of comprehensive care to surgical patients. The educational process must lead to the acquisition of an appropriate fund of knowledge and skills, ~~(~~including technical and non-technical skills~~),~~; the ability to integrate and apply the acquired knowledge into the clinical situation, including the ability to operate independently; ~~and~~ the development of surgical judgment; and the ability to communicate effectively, to the patient and other caregivers, the plan for and results of care.

Int.C. Length of Educational Program

~~The length of a t~~The educational program in surgery ~~residency program is~~ must be 60 months in length ~~five clinical years~~. (Core)*

I. Oversight

I.A. Sponsoring Institution

The Sponsoring Institution is the organization or entity that assumes the ultimate financial and academic responsibility for a program of graduate medical education, consistent with the ACGME Institutional Requirements.

When the Sponsoring Institution is not a rotation site for the program, the most commonly utilized site of clinical activity for the program is the primary clinical site.

Background and Intent: Participating sites will reflect the health care needs of the community and the educational needs of the residents. A wide variety of organizations may provide a robust educational experience and, thus, Sponsoring Institutions and participating sites may encompass inpatient and outpatient settings including, but not limited to a university, a medical school, a teaching hospital, a nursing home, a school of public health, a health department, a public health agency, an organized health care delivery system, a medical examiner's office, an educational consortium, a teaching health center, a physician group practice, federally qualified health center, or an educational foundation.

I.A.1. **The program must be sponsored by one ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution.** (Core)

I.B. **Participating Sites**

A participating site is an organization providing educational experiences or educational assignments/rotations for residents.

I.B.1. **The program, with approval of its Sponsoring Institution, must designate a primary clinical site.** (Core)

I.B.2. **There must be a program letter of agreement (PLA) between the program and each participating site that governs the relationship between the program and the participating site providing a required assignment.** (Core)

I.B.2.a) **The PLA must:**

I.B.2.a).(1) **be renewed at least every 10 years; and,** (Core)

I.B.2.a).(2) **be approved by the designated institutional official (DIO).** (Core)

I.B.3. **The program must monitor the clinical learning and working environment at all participating sites.** (Core)

I.B.3.a) **At each participating site there must be one faculty member, designated by the program director as the site director, who is accountable for resident education at that site, in collaboration with the program director.** (Core)

Background and Intent: While all residency programs must be sponsored by a single ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution, many programs will utilize other clinical settings to provide required or elective training experiences. At times it is appropriate to utilize community sites that are not owned by or affiliated with the Sponsoring Institution Some of these sites may be remote for geographic, transportation, or communication issues. When utilizing such sites the program must ensure the quality of the educational experience. The requirements under I.B.3. are intended to ensure that this will be the case.

Suggested elements to be considered in PLAs will be found in the ACGME Program Director's Guide to the Common Program Requirements. These include:

- **Identifying the faculty members who will assume educational and supervisory responsibility for residents**
- **Specifying the responsibilities for teaching, supervision, and formal evaluation of residents**
- **Specifying the duration and content of the educational experience**
- **Stating the policies and procedures that will govern resident education during the assignment**

I.B.4. **The program director must submit any additions or deletions of participating sites routinely providing an educational experience, required for all residents, of one month full time equivalent (FTE) or more through the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS).** **(Core)**

I.B.5. An accredited surgery program must be conducted in an institution that can document a sufficient breadth of patient care. At a minimum, the institution must routinely care for patients with a broad spectrum of surgical diseases and conditions, including all of the essential content areas in surgical education. In addition, these institutions must include facilities and staff for a variety of other services that provide a critical role in the care of patients with surgical conditions, including radiology and pathology. (Core~~Detail~~)†

I.B.6. A participating site should supplement resident education by providing focused clinical experience not available, or insufficient for optimal education and training, at the primary clinical site. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.a) Assignment to participating sites must have a clear educational rationale. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.b) Advance approval of the Review Committee is required for resident assignment of six months or more at a participating site. (Core~~Detail~~)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: An Institutional Operative Data Worksheet can be found on the Documents and Resources page of the Surgery section of the ACGME website. The Institutional Operative Data Worksheet allows programs to demonstrate that a participating site has the operative resources specific to the breadth of surgery and supports the justification of rotations at that site. If rotations at the site are in general surgery, the program needs to complete the worksheet; however, if rotations are limited to specific subspecialties (e.g., pediatric surgery, transplant, burn, breast), the program may complete those specific sections of the worksheet. Programs requesting approval for resident assignments of six months or more at any participating site, cumulatively over the duration of the program, need to provide a complete listing of institutional operative data specific to the rotations at that site.

I.B.6.c) Advance approval of the Review Committee is not required for resident assignment of less than six months, but the educational rationale and operative resources for such assignments will be

evaluated at the time of each site-visit and accreditation review. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.d) The program director must ~~should~~ designate other well-qualified surgeons to assist in the supervision and education of the residents. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.e) The program director must be responsible for all clinical assignments and input into the teaching staff appointments at all sites. (Core)

I.B.6.f) Participating site[s] should be in geographic proximity to allow all residents to attend core conferences. If the site is geographically remote and joint conferences cannot be held, an equivalent educational program of lectures and conferences at the site must occur and must be fully documented. Morbidity and mortality reviews must occur at each participating site or at a combined central location. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.g) All trainees in both ACGME-accredited and non-accredited programs at the primary clinical site and participating site[s] that may impact the educational experience of the surgery residents must be identified, and their relationship to the surgery residents must be detailed and reported to the DIO and Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) at least annually. (Core~~Detail~~)

I.B.6.h) Chief residents (residents in the PGY-5 or residents in the PGY-4 and PGY-5 with approved chief rotations):

I.B.6.h).(1) ~~May~~ must not be assigned to a participating site that sponsors ~~an~~ another ACGME-accredited general surgery residency program; and, (Detail)

I.B.6.h).(2) must have clinical experiences in the essential content areas as outlined in IV.C.8.b).(2).(a) when rotating at a participating site. (Core)

I.B.6.h).(2).(a) Exceptions must be approved by the Review Committee and will be considered case-by-case on the basis of educational value. ~~Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.~~ (Core~~Detail~~)

I.C. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must engage in practices that focus on mission-driven, ongoing, systematic recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce of residents, fellows (if present), faculty members, senior administrative staff members, and other relevant members of its academic community. (Core)

Background and Intent: It is expected that the Sponsoring Institution has, and programs implement, policies and procedures related to recruitment and retention of minorities underrepresented in medicine and medical leadership in accordance with

the Sponsoring Institution's mission and aims. The program's annual evaluation must include an assessment of the program's efforts to recruit and retain a diverse workforce, as noted in V.C.1.c).(5).(c).

I.D. Resources

I.D.1. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must ensure the availability of adequate resources for resident education. **(Core)**

I.D.1.a) These resources must include:

I.D.1.a).(1) a common office space for residents that includes a sufficient number of computers and adequate workspace at the primary clinical site and at each participating site; (Core)

I.D.1.a).(2) Internet access to appropriate full-text journals and electronic medical reference resources for education and patient care at all participating sites; and, (Core)

I.D.1.a).(3) software resources for production of presentations, manuscripts, and portfolios; and,~~.~~ (Core)

I.D.1.a).(4) online radiographic and laboratory reporting systems at the primary clinical site and all participating sites.~~; and,~~ (Core)

I.D.1.b) Programs must provide for simulation and skills laboratories. ~~These facilities must address acquisition and maintenance of skills with a competency-based method of evaluation.~~ (Core)

I.D.2. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must ensure healthy and safe learning and working environments that promote resident well-being and provide for: **(Core)**

I.D.2.a) access to food while on duty; **(Core)**

I.D.2.b) safe, quiet, clean, and private sleep/rest facilities available and accessible for residents with proximity appropriate for safe patient care; **(Core)**

Background and Intent: Care of patients within a hospital or health system occurs continually through the day and night. Such care requires that residents function at their peak abilities, which requires the work environment to provide them with the ability to meet their basic needs within proximity of their clinical responsibilities. Access to food and rest are examples of these basic needs, which must be met while residents are working. Residents should have access to refrigeration where food may be stored. Food should be available when residents are required to be in the hospital overnight. Rest facilities are necessary, even when overnight call is not required, to accommodate the fatigued resident.

I.D.2.c) **clean and private facilities for lactation that have refrigeration capabilities, with proximity appropriate for safe patient care; (Core)**

Background and Intent: Sites must provide private and clean locations where residents may lactate and store the milk within a refrigerator. These locations should be in close proximity to clinical responsibilities. It would be helpful to have additional support within these locations that may assist the resident with the continued care of patients, such as a computer and a phone. While space is important, the time required for lactation is also critical for the well-being of the resident and the resident's family, as outlined in VI.C.1.d).(1).

I.D.2.d) **security and safety measures appropriate to the participating site; and, (Core)**

I.D.2.e) **accommodations for residents with disabilities consistent with the Sponsoring Institution's policy. (Core)**

I.D.3. **Residents must have ready access to specialty-specific and other appropriate reference material in print or electronic format. This must include access to electronic medical literature databases with full text capabilities. (Core)**

I.D.4. **The program's educational and clinical resources must be adequate to support the number of residents appointed to the program. (Core)**

I.D.5. The institutional volume and variety of operative experience must be adequate to ensure a sufficient number and distribution of basic and complex cases (as determined by the Review Committee) for each resident in the program. (Core)

I.E. **The presence of other learners and other care providers, including, but not limited to, residents from other programs, subspecialty fellows, and advanced practice providers, must enrich the appointed residents' education. (Core)**

I.E.1. **The program must report circumstances when the presence of other learners has interfered with the residents' education to the DIO and Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). (Core)**

Background and Intent: The clinical learning environment has become increasingly complex and often includes care providers, students, and post-graduate residents and fellows from multiple disciplines. The presence of these practitioners and their learners enriches the learning environment. Programs have a responsibility to monitor the learning environment to ensure that residents' education is not compromised by the presence of other providers and learners.

II. Personnel

II.A. Program Director

II.A.1. **There must be one faculty member appointed as program director with authority and accountability for the overall program, including compliance with all applicable program requirements.** (Core)

II.A.1.a) **The Sponsoring Institution's GMEC must approve a change in program director.** (Core)

II.A.1.b) **Final approval of the program director resides with the Review Committee.** (Core)

Background and Intent: While the ACGME recognizes the value of input from numerous individuals in the management of a residency, a single individual must be designated as program director and made responsible for the program. This individual will have dedicated time for the leadership of the residency, and it is this individual's responsibility to communicate with the residents, faculty members, DIO, GMEC, and the ACGME. The program director's nomination is reviewed and approved by the GMEC. Final approval of program directors resides with the Review Committee.

II.A.1.c) **The program must demonstrate retention of the program director for a length of time adequate to maintain continuity of leadership and program stability.** (Core)

II.A.1.c).(1) The program director's initial appointment should be for at least six years. (~~Core~~Detail)

Background and Intent: The success of residency programs is generally enhanced by continuity in the program director position. The professional activities required of a program director are unique and complex and take time to master. All programs are encouraged to undertake succession planning to facilitate program stability when there is necessary turnover in the program director position.

II.A.2. **At a minimum, the program director must be provided with the salary support required to devote** 30 percent **FTE of non-clinical time to the administration of the program.** (Core)

II.A.2.a) Associate program directors must be appointed and additional salary support for the associate program director(s) must be provided based on program size as follows: ~~The program director must be provided with a minimum of 30 percent protected time, which may take the form of direct or indirect salary support, such as release from clinical activities provided by the institution.~~ (Core)

Number of Approved Categorical and Preliminary Resident Positions	Minimum Number of Associate Program Directors	Minimum FTE per Associate Program Director(s)
0-20	0	0
21-50	1	0.1
51 or more	2	0.1

II.A.2.b) ~~The~~ Program director~~s~~ should devote ~~his or her~~ their principal non-clinical effort to the program. (Detail)

II.A.2.c) ~~the program director must appoint an associate program director for programs with more than 20 categorical residents.~~ (Core)

II.A.2.c).(1) The associate program director's initial appointment should be for at least three years. (Detail)

Background and Intent: Thirty percent FTE is defined as one and one half days per week.

"Administrative time" is defined as non-clinical time spent meeting the responsibilities of the program director as detailed in requirements II.A.4.-II.A.4.a).(16).

The requirement does not address the source of funding required to provide the specified salary support.

II.A.3. Qualifications of the program director:

II.A.3.a) must include specialty expertise and at least three years of documented educational and/or administrative experience, or qualifications acceptable to the Review Committee; (Core)

Background and Intent: Leading a program requires knowledge and skills that are established during residency and subsequently further developed. The time period from completion of residency until assuming the role of program director allows the individual to cultivate leadership abilities while becoming professionally established. The three-year period is intended for the individual's professional maturation.

The broad allowance for educational and/or administrative experience recognizes that strong leaders arise through diverse pathways. These areas of expertise are important when identifying and appointing a program director. The choice of a program director should be informed by the mission of the program and the needs of the community.

In certain circumstances, the program and Sponsoring Institution may propose and the Review Committee may accept a candidate for program director who fulfills these goals but does not meet the three-year minimum.

II.A.3.b) must include current certification in the specialty for which they are the program director by the American Board of Surgery **or by the American Osteopathic Board of** Surgery**, or specialty qualifications that are acceptable to the Review Committee; (Core)**

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: Sponsoring Institutions considering candidates for appointment as program director holding qualifications equivalent to those of the American Board of Surgery or the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery (e.g., Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Canada) may submit a request for consideration and approval of

qualifications to the executive director of the Review Committee. In accordance with Program Requirement II.A.4.a).(16) all requests must be co-signed by the DIO.

There may be situations in programs when a qualified program director cannot be immediately appointed or when a temporary absence of the permanent program director is anticipated. In situations where an interim program director is needed as a temporizing measure to provide stability to a program, a request should be entered into ADS, and "interim" chosen as the term of appointment. Included in the submission of the request for approval, the institution/program will be required to submit an action plan outlining the support (e.g., institutional, division, department, and program) that will be provided to the interim program director, the plan for recruitment or placement of a qualified permanent program director, and the anticipated timeline until such placement. The program will be expected to submit a progress report six months following the request for approval of the interim program director if a qualified program director has not been appointed and approved by the Review Committee. Instructions for the submission of an interim program director may be found at: https://www.acgme.org/Specialties/Documents-and-Resources/pfcatid/24/Surgery.

II.A.3.c) **must include current medical licensure and appropriate medical staff appointment;** (Core)

II.A.3.d) **must include ongoing clinical activity; and,** (Core)

Background and Intent: A program director is a role model for faculty members and residents. The program director must participate in clinical activity consistent with the specialty. This activity will allow the program director to role model the Core Competencies for the faculty members and residents.

II.A.3.e) must include scholarly activity in at least one of the areas of scholarly activity delineated in Section IV.D. of this document. (Detail)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: The Committee recommends that the program director's scholarly activities be reflective of the institution's and program's scholarly environment, and should align with the program's mission and aims.

II.A.4. **Program Director Responsibilities**

The program director must have responsibility, authority, and accountability for: administration and operations; teaching and scholarly activity; resident recruitment and selection, evaluation, and promotion of residents, and disciplinary action; supervision of residents; and resident education in the context of patient care. (Core)

II.A.4.a) **The program director must:**

II.A.4.a).(1) **be a role model of professionalism;** (Core)

Background and Intent: The program director, as the leader of the program, must serve as a role model to residents in addition to fulfilling the technical aspects of the role. As residents are expected to demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for

others, they must be able to look to the program director as an exemplar. It is of utmost importance, therefore, that the program director model outstanding professionalism, high quality patient care, educational excellence, and a scholarly approach to work. The program director creates an environment where respectful discussion is welcome, with the goal of continued improvement of the educational experience.

II.A.4.a).(2) **design and conduct the program in a fashion consistent with the needs of the community, the mission(s) of the Sponsoring Institution, and the mission(s) of the program; (Core)**

Background and Intent: The mission of institutions participating in graduate medical education is to improve the health of the public. Each community has health needs that vary based upon location and demographics. Programs must understand the social determinants of health of the populations they serve and incorporate them in the design and implementation of the program curriculum, with the ultimate goal of addressing these needs and health disparities.

II.A.4.a).(3) **administer and maintain a learning environment conducive to educating the residents in each of the ACGME Competency domains; (Core)**

Background and Intent: The program director may establish a leadership team to assist in the accomplishment of program goals. Residency programs can be highly complex. In a complex organization, the leader typically has the ability to delegate authority to others, yet remains accountable. The leadership team may include physician and non-physician personnel with varying levels of education, training, and experience.

II.A.4.a).(4) **develop and oversee a process to evaluate candidates prior to approval as program faculty members for participation in the residency program education and at least annually thereafter, as outlined in V.B.; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(5) **have the authority to approve program faculty members for participation in the residency program education at all sites; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(6) **have the authority to remove program faculty members from participation in the residency program education at all sites; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(7) **have the authority to remove residents from supervising interactions and/or learning environments that do not meet the standards of the program; (Core)**

Background and Intent: The program director has the responsibility to ensure that all who educate residents effectively role model the Core Competencies. Working with a resident is a privilege that is earned through effective teaching and professional role

modeling. This privilege may be removed by the program director when the standards of the clinical learning environment are not met.

There may be faculty in a department who are not part of the educational program, and the program director controls who is teaching the residents.

II.A.4.a).(8) **submit accurate and complete information required and requested by the DIO, GMEC, and ACGME; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(9) **provide applicants who are offered an interview with information related to the applicant's eligibility for the relevant specialty board examination(s); (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(10) **provide a learning and working environment in which residents have the opportunity to raise concerns and provide feedback in a confidential manner as appropriate, without fear of intimidation or retaliation; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(11) **ensure the program's compliance with the Sponsoring Institution's policies and procedures related to grievances and due process; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(12) **ensure the program's compliance with the Sponsoring Institution's policies and procedures for due process when action is taken to suspend or dismiss, not to promote, or not to renew the appointment of a resident; (Core)**

Background and Intent: A program does not operate independently of its Sponsoring Institution. It is expected that the program director will be aware of the Sponsoring Institution's policies and procedures, and will ensure they are followed by the program's leadership, faculty members, support personnel, and residents.

II.A.4.a).(13) **ensure the program's compliance with the Sponsoring Institution's policies and procedures on employment and non-discrimination; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(13).(a) **Residents must not be required to sign a non-competition guarantee or restrictive covenant. (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(14) **document verification of program completion for all graduating residents within 30 days; (Core)**

II.A.4.a).(15) **provide verification of an individual resident's completion upon the resident's request, within 30 days; and, (Core)**

Background and Intent: Primary verification of graduate medical education is important to credentialing of physicians for further training and practice. Such verification must be accurate and timely. Sponsoring Institution and program policies for record retention are important to facilitate timely documentation of residents who have previously completed the program. Residents who leave the program prior to completion also require timely documentation of their summative evaluation.

II.A.4.a).(16) **obtain review and approval of the Sponsoring Institution's DIO before submitting information or requests to the ACGME, as required in the Institutional Requirements and outlined in the ACGME Program Director's Guide to the Common Program Requirements.** (Core)

II.B. Faculty

Faculty members are a foundational element of graduate medical education – faculty members teach residents how to care for patients. Faculty members provide an important bridge allowing residents to grow and become practice-ready, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality of care. They are role models for future generations of physicians by demonstrating compassion, commitment to excellence in teaching and patient care, professionalism, and a dedication to lifelong learning. Faculty members experience the pride and joy of fostering the growth and development of future colleagues. The care they provide is enhanced by the opportunity to teach. By employing a scholarly approach to patient care, faculty members, through the graduate medical education system, improve the health of the individual and the population.

Faculty members ensure that patients receive the level of care expected from a specialist in the field. They recognize and respond to the needs of the patients, residents, community, and institution. Faculty members provide appropriate levels of supervision to promote patient safety. Faculty members create an effective learning environment by acting in a professional manner and attending to the well-being of the residents and themselves.

Background and Intent: "Faculty" refers to the entire teaching force responsible for educating residents. The term "faculty," including "core faculty," does not imply or require an academic appointment or salary support.

II.B.1. **At each participating site, there must be a sufficient number of faculty members with competence to instruct and supervise all residents at that location.** (Core)

II.B.2. **Faculty members must:**

II.B.2.a) **be role models of professionalism;** (Core)

II.B.2.b) **demonstrate commitment to the delivery of safe, quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care;** (Core)

Background and Intent: Patients have the right to expect quality, cost-effective care with patient safety at its core. The foundation for meeting this expectation is formed during residency and fellowship. Faculty members model these goals and continually strive for improvement in care and cost, embracing a commitment to the patient and the community they serve.

II.B.2.c) **demonstrate a strong interest in the education of residents; (Core)**

II.B.2.d) **devote sufficient time to the educational program to fulfill their supervisory and teaching responsibilities; (Core)**

II.B.2.e) **administer and maintain an educational environment conducive to educating residents; (Core)**

II.B.2.f) **regularly participate in organized clinical discussions, rounds, journal clubs, and conferences; and, (Core)**

II.B.2.g) **pursue faculty development designed to enhance their skills at least annually: (Core)**

Background and Intent: Faculty development is intended to describe structured programming developed for the purpose of enhancing transference of knowledge, skill, and behavior from the educator to the learner. Faculty development may occur in a variety of configurations (lecture, workshop, etc.) using internal and/or external resources. Programming is typically needs-based (individual or group) and may be specific to the institution or the program. Faculty development programming is to be reported for the residency program faculty in the aggregate.

II.B.2.g).(1) **as educators; (Core)**

II.B.2.g).(2) **in quality improvement and patient safety; (Core)**

II.B.2.g).(3) **in fostering their own and their residents' well-being; and, (Core)**

II.B.2.g).(4) **in patient care based on their practice-based learning and improvement efforts. (Core)**

Background and Intent: Practice-based learning serves as the foundation for the practice of medicine. Through a systematic analysis of one's practice and review of the literature, one is able to make adjustments that improve patient outcomes and care. Thoughtful consideration to practice-based analysis improves quality of care, as well as patient safety. This allows faculty members to serve as role models for residents in practice-based learning.

II.B.3. **Faculty Qualifications**

II.B.3.a) **Faculty members must have appropriate qualifications in their field and hold appropriate institutional appointments.** **(Core)**

II.B.3.b) **Physician faculty members must:**

II.B.3.b).(1) **have current certification in the specialty by the American Board of** Surgery **or the American Osteopathic Board of** Surgery**, or possess qualifications judged acceptable to the Review Committee; and,** **(Core)**

II.B.3.b).(2) have current certification in their designated specialty or subspecialty if they are not surgical faculty members, or possess qualifications judged acceptable to the Review Committee. (Core)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: Programs need to submit a request to the executive director of the Review Committee for consideration and approval of qualifications of any faculty member who is not currently certified by the American Board of Surgery, another ABMS member board, or the American Osteopathic Association. In accordance with Program Requirement II.A.4.a).(16), all requests must be co-signed by the DIO.

II.B.3.c) **Any non-physician faculty members who participate in residency program education must be approved by the program director.** **(Core)**

Background and Intent: The provision of optimal and safe patient care requires a team approach. The education of residents by non-physician educators enables the resident to better manage patient care and provides valuable advancement of the residents' knowledge. Furthermore, other individuals contribute to the education of the resident in the basic science of the specialty or in research methodology. If the program director determines that the contribution of a non-physician individual is significant to the education of the residents, the program director may designate the individual as a program faculty member or a program core faculty member.

II.B.4. **Core Faculty**

Core faculty members must have a significant role in the education and supervision of residents and must devote a significant portion of their entire effort to resident education and/or administration, and must, as a component of their activities, teach, evaluate, and provide formative feedback to residents. **(Core)**

Background and Intent: Core faculty members are critical to the success of resident education. They support the program leadership in developing, implementing, and assessing curriculum and in assessing residents' progress toward achievement of competence in the specialty. Core faculty members should be selected for their broad knowledge of and involvement in the program, permitting them to effectively evaluate the program, including completion of the annual ACGME Faculty Survey.

II.B.4.a) **Core faculty members must be designated by the program director.** **(Core)**

II.B.4.b) **Core faculty members must complete the annual ACGME Faculty Survey.** **(Core)**

II.B.4.c) For each approved chief resident position there must be at least one core faculty member with current board certification in surgery in addition to the program director (i.e., if there are three approved chief residents, there must be at least three ~~four~~ core faculty members in addition to the program director). (Core)

II.B.4.d) The associate program director(s) must be designated as core faculty members. (Core)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: In addition to the above specified requirements, the Review Committee will accept faculty members that are retired and not clinically active if they have engaged in an amnesty pathway through their certifying board; board eligible physicians; and, physicians who are currently certified in a specialty/subspecialty other than surgery.

II.B.5. The associate program director should have demonstrated experience in, or obtain special instruction in, resident education and mentoring. (Detail)

II.C. Program Coordinator

II.C.1. **There must be a program coordinator.** **(Core)**

II.C.2. **At a minimum, the program coordinator must be supported at** 100 percent **FTE for administration of the program.** **(Core)**

II.C.2.a) Additional support must be provided based on program size as follows: ~~There must be a full-time surgery program coordinator designated specifically for surgical education.~~ (Core)

Number of Residents	Minimum FTE Coordinator Support
0-20	1.0
21-29	1.5
≥30	2.0

II.C.2.a).(1) ~~Programs with more than 20 residents should be provided with additional administrative personnel.~~ (Core)

Background and Intent: One hundred percent FTE is defined as five days per week.

The requirement does not address the source of funding required to provide the specified salary support.

Each program requires a lead administrative person, frequently referred to as a program coordinator, administrator, or as titled by the institution. This person will frequently manage the day-to-day operations of the program and serve as an important liaison with learners, faculty and other staff members, and the ACGME. Individuals serving in this role are recognized as program coordinators by the ACGME.

The program coordinator is a member of the leadership team and is critical to the success of the program. As such, the program coordinator must possess skills in leadership and personnel management. Program coordinators are expected to develop unique knowledge of the ACGME and Program Requirements, policies, and procedures. Program coordinators assist the program director in accreditation efforts, educational programming, and support of residents.

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, should encourage the professional development of their program coordinators and avail them of opportunities for both professional and personal growth. Programs with fewer residents may not require a full-time coordinator; one coordinator may support more than one program.

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Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: The Review Committee recognizes that some surgical program coordinators support large programs, that some support multiple programs, including other surgical specialties, and that some support other administrative functions within their Sponsoring Institution in addition to residency/fellowship programs. Support of large and/or multiple programs requires a facile working knowledge of each specialty's requirements, as well as the ability to manage the day-to-day requirements of large/multiple programs and their required data. The Committee believes that program coordinators who support general surgery programs and are assigned to support other specialties should only support surgical specialties, as these specialties have more similarities in their execution than non-surgical specialties. To ensure that residency coordinators have sufficient support for performing those functions, the Review Committee has limited the number of residents/fellows that a single coordinator should manage to no more than 20, including both categorical and preliminary residents. For coordinators managing a single program or multiple programs with more than 20 residents, the Review Committee has instituted a requirement for additional administrative support, which can take many forms, such as an additional coordinator, an assistant coordinator, or an administrative assistant.

572
573 **II.D. Other Program Personnel**
574
575 **The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must jointly**
576 **ensure the availability of necessary personnel for the effective**
577 **administration of the program.** **(Core)**
578
579 II.D.1. Personnel should be available for administration of program components,
580 including support for faculty member and resident scholarly activity, and
581 for simulation. (Core)
582

Background and Intent: Multiple personnel may be required to effectively administer a program. These may include staff members with clerical skills, project managers, education experts, and staff members to maintain electronic communication for the

program. These personnel may support more than one program in more than one discipline.

III. Resident Appointments

III.A. Eligibility Requirements

III.A.1. An applicant must meet one of the following qualifications to be eligible for appointment to an ACGME-accredited program: (Core)

III.A.1.a) graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada, accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or graduation from a college of osteopathic medicine in the United States, accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOACOCA); or, (Core)

III.A.1.b) graduation from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional qualifications: (Core)

III.A.1.b).(1) holding a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) prior to appointment; or, (Core)

III.A.1.b).(2) holding a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States licensing jurisdiction in which the ACGME-accredited program is located. (Core)

III.A.2. All prerequisite post-graduate clinical education required for initial entry or transfer into ACGME-accredited residency programs must be completed in ACGME-accredited residency programs, AOA-approved residency programs, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited or College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)-accredited residency programs located in Canada, or in residency programs with ACGME International (ACGME-I) Advanced Specialty Accreditation. (Core)

III.A.2.a) Residency programs must receive verification of each resident's level of competency in the required clinical field using ACGME, CanMEDS, or ACGME-I Milestones evaluations from the prior training program upon matriculation. (Core)

Background and Intent: Programs with ACGME-I Foundational Accreditation or from institutions with ACGME-I accreditation do not qualify unless the program has also achieved ACGME-I Advanced Specialty Accreditation. To ensure entrants into ACGME-accredited programs from ACGME-I programs have attained the prerequisite milestones for this training, they must be from programs that have ACGME-I Advanced Specialty Accreditation.

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: Eligibility for the residency program ideally includes a focused preparatory experience often addressing education pertaining to surgical anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, basic surgical technique, and documentation of patient care, including the history and physical examination, progress notes, operative report, discharge summary. Programs are urged to develop such an experience within the program or provide access to other preparatory courses for incoming residents who did not have access to such focused preparatory experiences in their medical schools.

III.A.3. **A physician who has completed a residency program that was not accredited by ACGME, AOA, RCPSC, CFPC, or ACGME-I (with Advanced Specialty Accreditation) may enter an ACGME-accredited residency program in the same specialty at the PGY-1 level and, at the discretion of the program director of the ACGME-accredited program and with approval by the GMEC, may be advanced to the PGY-2 level based on ACGME Milestones evaluations at the ACGME-accredited program. This provision applies only to entry into residency in those specialties for which an initial clinical year is not required for entry.** **(Core)**

III.B. **The program director must not appoint more residents than approved by the Review Committee.** **(Core)**

III.B.1. **All complement increases must be approved by the Review Committee.** **(Core)**

III.B.1.a) Residency positions must be allocated to one of two groups: categorical or preliminary positions. (Detail)

III.B.1.a).(1) Categorical (C) residents are accepted into the residency program with the expectation of completing the surgery program, assuming satisfactory performance. (Core)

III.B.1.a).(1).(a) ~~At the PGY-1, PGY-2, PGY-3, and PGY-4 levels, the number of categorical residents must not exceed the number of approved chief residency positions.~~ (Detail) The number of categorical residents at each PG level must not exceed the number of approved chief resident positions. (Core)

III.B.1.a).(2) Preliminary ~~(P)~~ residents are accepted into the program for one or two years before continuing their education. (Core)

III.B.1.a).(2).(a) The total number of preliminary positions in the PG-1 and PG-2 ~~combined~~ years must not exceed 300 percent of the number of approved categorical chief resident positions. (Core~~Detail~~)

III.B.1.a).(2).(b) Documentation of continuation in graduate medical education for the preliminary residents must be provided in the "Major Changes and Other

Updates" section at the time of each ~~site visit~~ ADS Annual Update. (~~Detail~~Core)

III.B.1.a).(2).(c) The experience of the preliminary resident(s) must largely resemble that of the categorical residents; deviations in rotation schedule are acceptable when it is in the best interest of the preliminary resident's education and career goals. (Core)

III.B.1.a).(2).(d) It is the responsibility of the program director to counsel and assist preliminary residents in obtaining future positions. (~~Detail~~Core)

III.C. Resident Transfers

The program must obtain verification of previous educational experiences and a summative competency-based performance evaluation prior to acceptance of a transferring resident, and Milestones evaluations upon matriculation. (Core)

III.C.1. The final two years of residency education (i.e., PGY-4 and PGY-5) must be spent in the same program. (Core)

IV. Educational Program

The ACGME accreditation system is designed to encourage excellence and innovation in graduate medical education regardless of the organizational affiliation, size, or location of the program.

The educational program must support the development of knowledgeable, skillful physicians who provide compassionate care.

In addition, the program is expected to define its specific program aims consistent with the overall mission of its Sponsoring Institution, the needs of the community it serves and that its graduates will serve, and the distinctive capabilities of physicians it intends to graduate. While programs must demonstrate substantial compliance with the Common and specialty-specific Program Requirements, it is recognized that within this framework, programs may place different emphasis on research, leadership, public health, etc. It is expected that the program aims will reflect the nuanced program-specific goals for it and its graduates; for example, it is expected that a program aiming to prepare physician-scientists will have a different curriculum from one focusing on community health.

IV.A. The curriculum must contain the following educational components: (Core)

IV.A.1. a set of program aims consistent with the Sponsoring Institution's mission, the needs of the community it serves, and the desired distinctive capabilities of its graduates; (Core)

IV.A.1.a) The program's aims must be made available to program applicants, residents, and faculty members. (Core)

IV.A.2. competency-based goals and objectives for each educational experience designed to promote progress on a trajectory to autonomous practice. These must be distributed, reviewed, and available to residents and faculty members; (Core)

Background and Intent: The trajectory to autonomous practice is documented by Milestones evaluation. The Milestones detail the progress of a resident in attaining skill in each competency domain. They are developed by each specialty group and allow evaluation based on observable behaviors. Milestones are considered formative and should be used to identify learning needs. This may lead to focused or general curricular revision in any given program or to individualized learning plans for any specific resident.

IV.A.3. delineation of resident responsibilities for patient care, progressive responsibility for patient management, and graded supervision; (Core)

Background and Intent: These responsibilities may generally be described by PGY level and specifically by Milestones progress as determined by the Clinical Competency Committee. This approach encourages the transition to competency-based education. An advanced learner may be granted more responsibility independent of PGY level and a learner needing more time to accomplish a certain task may do so in a focused rather than global manner.

IV.A.4. a broad range of structured didactic activities; (Core)

IV.A.4.a) Residents must be provided with protected time to participate in core didactic activities. (Core)

Background and Intent: It is intended that residents will participate in structured didactic activities. It is recognized that there may be circumstances in which this is not possible. Programs should define core didactic activities for which time is protected and the circumstances in which residents may be excused from these didactic activities. Didactic activities may include, but are not limited to, lectures, conferences, courses, labs, asynchronous learning, simulations, drills, case discussions, grand rounds, didactic teaching, and education in critical appraisal of medical evidence.

IV.A.5. advancement of residents' knowledge of ethical principles foundational to medical professionalism; and, (Core)

IV.A.6. advancement in the residents' knowledge of the basic principles of scientific inquiry, including how research is designed, conducted, evaluated, explained to patients, and applied to patient care. (Core)

IV.B. ACGME Competencies

Background and Intent: The Competencies provide a conceptual framework describing the required domains for a trusted physician to enter autonomous practice. These Competencies are core to the practice of all physicians, although the

specifics are further defined by each specialty. The developmental trajectories in each of the Competencies are articulated through the Milestones for each specialty.

IV.B.1. **The program must integrate the following ACGME Competencies into the curriculum:** (Core)

IV.B.1.a) **Professionalism**

Residents must demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and an adherence to ethical principles. (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1) **Residents must demonstrate competence in:**

IV.B.1.a).(1).(a) **compassion, integrity, and respect for others;** (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(b) **responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest;** (Core)

Background and Intent: This includes the recognition that under certain circumstances, the interests of the patient may be best served by transitioning care to another provider. Examples include fatigue, conflict or duality of interest, not connecting well with a patient, or when another physician would be better for the situation based on skill set or knowledge base.

IV.B.1.a).(1).(c) **respect for patient privacy and autonomy;** (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(d) **accountability to patients, society, and the profession;** (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(e) **respect and responsiveness to diverse patient populations, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, national origin, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation;** (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(f) **ability to recognize and develop a plan for one's own personal and professional well-being; and,** (Core)

IV.B.1.a).(1).(g) **appropriately disclosing and addressing conflict or duality of interest.** (Core)

IV.B.1.b) **Patient Care and Procedural Skills**

Background and Intent: Quality patient care is safe, effective, timely, efficient, patient-centered, equitable, and designed to improve population health, while reducing per capita costs. (See the Institute of Medicine [IOM]'s *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*, 2001 and Berwick D, Nolan T, Whittington J. *The Triple Aim: care, cost, and quality. Health Affairs.* 2008; 27(3):759-769.). In

addition, there should be a focus on improving the clinician's well-being as a means to improve patient care and reduce burnout among residents, fellows, and practicing physicians.

These organizing principles inform the Common Program Requirements across all Competency domains. Specific content is determined by the Review Committees with input from the appropriate professional societies, certifying boards, and the community.

IV.B.1.b).(1) **Residents must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.** **(Core)**

IV.B.1.b).(1).(a) Residents must develop competence in and execute comprehensive patient care plans appropriate for the resident's level~~, including management of pain~~. (Core)

IV.B.1.b).(1).(b) Residents must demonstrate a commitment to continuity of comprehensive patient care. (Core)

IV.B.1.b).(2) **Residents must be able to perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential for the area of practice.** **(Core)**

IV.B.1.b).(2).(a) Residents must demonstrate competence in manual dexterity appropriate for their level. (Core)

IV.B.1.b).(2).(b) Residents must demonstrate competence in technical and non-technical skills sufficient to safely perform essential/core procedures with an appropriate level of independence based on the individual resident's required level of supervision. (Core)

IV.B.1.c) **Medical Knowledge**

Residents must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. **(Core)**

IV.B.1.c).(1) Residents must demonstrate competence in the critical evaluation and demonstration of knowledge of pertinent scientific information; (Core)

IV.B.1.c).(2) Residents must demonstrate knowledge of the fundamentals of basic science as applied to clinical surgery; and, (Core)

IV.B.1.c).(2).(a) Residents must participate in an educational program that includes: applied surgical anatomy and surgical pathology; the elements of wound healing; homeostasis, shock and circulatory physiology; surgical infection; hematologic disorders; immunobiology and transplantation; oncology; surgical endocrinology; surgical nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance; and the metabolic response to injury, including burns. (Core)

IV.B.1.c).(3) Residents must demonstrate knowledge of the principles of immunology, immunosuppression, and the management of general surgical conditions arising in transplant patients. (Core)

IV.B.1.d) Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Residents must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning. (Core)

Background and Intent: Practice-based learning and improvement is one of the defining characteristics of being a physician. It is the ability to investigate and evaluate the care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning.

The intention of this Competency is to help a physician develop the habits of mind required to continuously pursue quality improvement, well past the completion of residency.

IV.B.1.d).(1) Residents must demonstrate competence in:

IV.B.1.d).(1).(a) identifying strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise; (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(1).(b) setting learning and improvement goals; (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(1).(c) identifying and performing appropriate learning activities; (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(1).(d) systematically analyzing practice using quality improvement methods, and implementing changes with the goal of practice improvement; (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(1).(e) incorporating feedback and formative evaluation into daily practice; (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(1).(f) **locating, appraising, and assimilating evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems; and, (Core)**

IV.B.1.d).(1).(g) **using information technology to optimize learning. (Core)**

IV.B.1.d).(2) Residents must participate in mortality and morbidity conferences that evaluate and analyze patient care outcomes. (Core)

IV.B.1.d).(3) Residents must utilize an evidence-based approach to patient care. (Core)

IV.B.1.e) **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

Residents must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals. (Core)

IV.B.1.e).(1) **Residents must demonstrate competence in:**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(a) **communicating effectively with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds; (Core)**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(b) **communicating effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and health-related agencies; (Core)**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(c) **working effectively as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group; (Core)**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(d) **educating patients, families, students, residents, and other health professionals; (Core)**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(e) **acting in a consultative role to other physicians and health professionals; and, (Core)**

IV.B.1.e).(1).(f) **maintaining comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records, if applicable. (Core)**

~~IV.B.1.e).(1).(g)~~ ~~effectively documenting practice activities. (Core)~~

IV.B.1.e).(2) **Residents must learn to communicate with patients and families to partner with them to assess their care goals, including, when appropriate, end-of-life goals. (Core)**

Background and Intent: When there are no more medications or interventions that can achieve a patient's goals or provide meaningful improvements in quality or length of life, a discussion about the patient's goals, values, and choices surrounding the end of life is one of the most important conversations that can occur. Residents must learn to participate effectively and compassionately in these meaningful human interactions, for the sake of their patients and themselves.

Programs may teach this skill through direct clinical experience, simulation, or other means of active learning.

IV.B.1.f) Systems-based Practice

Residents must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, including the social determinants of health, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources to provide optimal health care. (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1) Residents must demonstrate competence in:

IV.B.1.f).(1).(a) working effectively in various health care delivery settings and systems relevant to their clinical specialty; (Core)

Background and Intent: Medical practice occurs in the context of an increasingly complex clinical care environment where optimal patient care requires attention to compliance with external and internal administrative and regulatory requirements.

IV.B.1.f).(1).(b) coordinating patient care across the health care continuum and beyond as relevant to their clinical specialty; (Core)

Background and Intent: Every patient deserves to be treated as a whole person. Therefore it is recognized that any one component of the health care system does not meet the totality of the patient's needs. An appropriate transition plan requires coordination and forethought by an interdisciplinary team. The patient benefits from proper care and the system benefits from proper use of resources.

IV.B.1.f).(1).(c) advocating for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems; (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1).(d) working in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality; (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1).(e) participating in identifying system errors and implementing potential systems solutions; (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1).(f) **incorporating considerations of value, cost awareness, delivery and payment, and risk-benefit analysis in patient and/or population-based care as appropriate; (Core)**

IV.B.1.f).(1).(g) **understanding health care finances and its impact on individual patients' health decisions; (Core)**

IV.B.1.f).(1).(h) practicing high quality, cost-effective patient care; (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1).(i) demonstrating knowledge of risk-benefit analysis; and, (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(1).(j) demonstrating an understanding of the role of different specialists and other health care professionals in overall patient management, and actively participating in interprofessional and multispecialty teams. (Core)

IV.B.1.f).(2) **Residents must learn to advocate for patients within the health care system to achieve the patient's and family's care goals, including, when appropriate, end-of-life goals. (Core)**

IV.C. Curriculum Organization and Resident Experiences

IV.C.1. **The curriculum must be structured to optimize resident educational experiences, the length of these experiences, and supervisory continuity. (Core)**

IV.C.1.a) Resident experiences in clinical surgery should be for a minimum of four contiguous weeks in duration. To enhance continuity and promote appropriate supervision, the PGY-4 and PGY-5 years should consist of more extended experiences. (Core)

Background and Intent: In some specialties, frequent rotational transitions, inadequate continuity of faculty member supervision, and dispersed patient locations within the hospital have adversely affected optimal resident education and effective team-based care. The need for patient care continuity varies from specialty to specialty and by clinical situation, and may be addressed by the individual Review Committee.

IV.C.2. **The program must provide instruction and experience in pain management if applicable for the specialty, including recognition of the signs of addiction. (Core)**

IV.C.2.a) Instruction must include the application and principles of local and regional anesthesia and conscious sedation for the mitigation of peri-procedural pain. (Core)

IV.C.3. The program must implement a level-specific, simulation-based curriculum that complements clinical rotations in the development of technical and non-technical skills. (Core)

IV.C.4. Resident acquisition and maintenance of technical and non-technical skills must be assessed using competency-based evaluation. (Core)

IV.C.5. The program must identify and designate an individual to manage the portfolio of simulation activities. (Core)

IV.C.6. The program must ensure that residents have required experience with evolving diagnostic and therapeutic methods. (Core)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: Evolving diagnostic and therapeutic methods include, but are not limited to, experience in minimally invasive surgical techniques; endoscopic surgical techniques; catheter-based surgical techniques; and diagnostic ultrasound.

IV.C.7. The program must ensure that residents have experiential learning in the provision of all elements of the comprehensive care of surgical patients. (Core)

IV.C.8. The program must document a clinical curriculum that is sequential, comprehensive, and organized from basic to complex. (Core)

IV.C.8.a) The clinical assignments should be carefully structured to ensure that graded levels of responsibility, continuity in patient care, a balance between education and service, and progressive clinical experiences are achieved for each resident. (Core)

IV.C.8.b) The 60-month clinical program should be organized as follows: (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(1) At least 54 months of the 60-month program must be spent on clinical assignments in surgery, with documented experience in emergency care and surgical critical care in order to enable residents to manage patients with severe and complex illnesses and with major injuries. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(2) 42 months of these 54 months must be spent on clinical assignments in the essential content areas of surgery. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(2).(a) The essential content areas are: the abdomen and its contents; the alimentary tract; skin, soft tissues, and breast; endocrine surgery; head and neck surgery; non-cardiac thoracic surgery; pediatric surgery; surgical critical care; surgical oncology; trauma and non-operative trauma (burn experience that includes patient management may be counted

toward non-operative trauma); and the vascular system. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(3) A formal rotation in burn care, gynecology, neurological surgery, orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, cardiac surgery, and urology is not required. Clearly documented goals and objectives must be presented if these components are included as rotations. (Detail)

IV.C.8.b).(4) Knowledge of burn physiology, and clinical experience with initial burn management is required. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(5) A formal solid organ transplant experience is required. It must include patient management. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(5).(a) Clearly documented goals and objectives must be presented for this transplant experience. (Detail)

IV.C.8.b).(6) No more than six months total may be allocated to research or to non-surgical disciplines such as anesthesiology, internal medicine, pediatrics, or surgical pathology. (Core)

IV.C.8.b).(6).(a) Gastroenterology is exempt from this limit if this rotation provides endoscopic experiences. (Detail)

IV.C.8.b).(7) No more than 12 months may be devoted to surgical discipline other than the principal components of surgery. (Core)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: The block diagram is used to document a clinical curriculum that is sequential, comprehensive, and organized. The block diagram should align with the participating sites and should remain current at all times. The Review Committee requests that programs format their block diagrams similar to the example provided in ADS under the "Participating Sites" tab. This format provides for a clear explanation of rotation site, content of rotation, percent of outpatient experience for each rotation, and percent of time allowed for research. Programs should clearly identify the transplant and burn experience on the block diagram. Programs are advised to provide a legend in the footnote of the block diagram providing the name of each site and its corresponding site number, definitions for all abbreviations or non-standard terms, explanation of allowed elective rotations, or other information necessary to fully understand the program's curriculum. If the burn experience will be combined with another rotation (e.g., non-operative trauma, plastic surgery), that should be indicated either within the content of the rotation block or in the footnote.

IV.C.8.c) ~~The~~ Chief Resident Experience ~~Year~~

IV.C.8.c).(1) Clinical assignments at the chief ~~resident~~ level should be scheduled in the final (fifth) year of the program. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(1).(a) To take advantage of a unique educational opportunity in a program, up to six months of the

chief year may be served in the next to the last year (fourth). (Detail)

IV.C.8.c).(1).(a).(i) This experience must not occur any earlier than the fourth clinical year. (Detail)

IV.C.8.c).(1).(a).(ii) Any special program of this type must be approved in advance by the Review Committee. (Detail)

IV.C.8.c).(1).(a).(iii) Operative cases counted as the chief cases must be performed during the 12 months designated as ~~the~~ chief ~~year~~ experience. (Detail)

IV.C.8.c).(2) There must be a minimum of 48 weeks, and a maximum of 52 weeks, of clinical assignments at the chief level. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(3) The clinical assignments during the chief ~~year~~ experience must be scheduled at the primary clinical site or at an approved participating ~~integrated~~ site~~(s)~~. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(3).(a) Chief experiences must not be assigned to a participating site that sponsors a general surgery residency program. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(3).(a).(i) All exceptions must be reviewed in advance by the Review Committee. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(4) A chief resident and a fellow (whether the fellow is in an ACGME-accredited position or not) must not have primary responsibility for the same patient except that general surgeon and surgical critical care fellows may co-manage the non-operative care of the same patient. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(5) Clinical assignments during the chief year must be in the essential content areas of general surgery. No more than six months of the chief year may be devoted exclusively to only one essential content area. (Core)

IV.C.8.c).(6) Non-cardiac thoracic surgery and transplantation rotations may be considered an acceptable chief resident assignment as long as the chief resident performs an appropriate number of complex cases with documented participation in pre and post-operative care (program director may use the flexibility outlined in Program Requirement IV.A.6.a).(2).(g).(i).(a)). (Detail)

IV.C.8.c).(7) Chief residents must have sufficient opportunity to demonstrate the ability to operate with indirect supervision for the more frequent types of core operations, including

appendectomy, cholecystectomy, hernia repair, adhesiolysis, and intestinal anastomosis. (Core)

IV.C.8.d) Operative and Clinical Experience

IV.C.8.d).(1) The program must assess ~~the technical competence of~~ each resident for progress towards competence in technical and non-technical operative skills. (Core)

IV.C.8.d).(1).(a) This assessment must be completed, discussed with the resident, and documented in the resident's program file at least semiannually. (Core)

IV.C.8.d).(2) ~~Each resident must perform a minimum number of certain cases for accreditation.~~ The volume and variety of operative experience must ensure a sufficient number and distribution of complex cases, as determined by the Review Committee. (~~Core~~Outcome)

IV.C.8.d).(2).(a) Performance of this minimum number of cases by a resident must not be interpreted as an equivalent to competence achievement. (~~Detail~~Core)

IV.C.8.d).(3) The program must ensure that each resident ~~has~~ performs at least 850 major cases as Surgeon ~~across the five years of training~~ during the 60 months of education~~. This~~, which must include a minimum of: (Outcome)‡

IV.C.8.d).(3).(a) experience in 250 operations by the beginning of the PGY-3; (Outcome)

IV.C.8.d).(3).(b) 25 cases as Teaching Assistant; and, (Outcome)

IV.C.8.d).(3).(c) 200 major cases in the resident's chief experience ~~year~~. (Outcome)‡

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: The defined category minimum numbers and credit roles are available on the Documents and Resources page of the Surgery section of the ACGME website.

IV.C.8.d).(4) The program must ensure that residents have required experience with a variety of endoscopic procedures, including esophogastro-duodenoscopy, colonoscopy, and bronchoscopy, as well as experience in advanced laparoscopy. (Core)

IV.C.8.d).(5) When justified by experience, a PGY-4 or PGY-5 (chief) resident ~~may~~ must be given adequate opportunities to act as a teaching assistant (TA) to a more junior resident with appropriate faculty member supervision. TA cases may not count towards the 200 minimum cases needed to fulfill the

operative requirements for the chief resident year. The junior resident performing the case will also be credited as surgeon for these cases. (~~Detail~~Core)

IV.C.8.e) The program must document that residents are performing a sufficient breadth of complex procedures to graduate qualified surgeons. (Core)

IV.C.8.f) All residents (categorical and preliminary residents in ACGME-accredited positions) must enter their operative experience concurrently during each year of the residency in the ACGME Case Log System. (Core)

IV.C.8.g) A resident may be considered the surgeon only when he or she can document a significant role in the following aspects of management: determination or confirmation of the diagnosis, provision of pre-operative care, selection, and accomplishment of the appropriate operative procedure, and direction of the post-operative care. (Core)

IV.C.8.h) Each program is required to provide residents with an outpatient experience to evaluate patients both pre-operatively, including initial evaluation, and post-operatively. (Core)

IV.C.8.i) At least 75 percent of the assignments in the essential content areas must include an outpatient experience of at least one half-day per week. (An outpatient experience is not required for assignments in the secondary components of surgery or surgical critical care). (Detail)

IV.C.9. Didactics and Conferences

IV.C.9.a) The program director, along with the faculty, must be responsible for the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive, effective, and well-organized educational curriculum; (Core)

IV.C.9.b) The program must ensure that conferences are scheduled to permit resident attendance on a regular basis, and resident time must be protected from interruption by routine clinical duties. Documentation of attendance by 75 percent of residents at the core conferences must be achieved; (~~Detail~~Core)

IV.C.9.c) The program must ensure that the following types of conferences exist within a program:

IV.C.9.c).(1) a course or a structured series of lectures that ensures education in the basic and clinical sciences fundamental to surgery, including technological advances that relate to surgery and the care of patients with surgical diseases, as well as education in critical thinking, design of experiments and evaluation of data; (~~Detail~~Core)

IV.C.9.c).(2) regular organized clinical teaching, such as grand rounds, ward rounds, and clinical conferences; (~~Detail~~Core)

IV.C.9.c).(3) a weekly morbidity and mortality or quality improvement conference. (Core)

IV.C.9.c).(3).(a) Sole reliance on textbook review is inadequate.

IV.D. Scholarship

Medicine is both an art and a science. The physician is a humanistic scientist who cares for patients. This requires the ability to think critically, evaluate the literature, appropriately assimilate new knowledge, and practice lifelong learning. The program and faculty must create an environment that fosters the acquisition of such skills through resident participation in scholarly activities. Scholarly activities may include discovery, integration, application, and teaching.

The ACGME recognizes the diversity of residencies and anticipates that programs prepare physicians for a variety of roles, including clinicians, scientists, and educators. It is expected that the program's scholarship will reflect its mission(s) and aims, and the needs of the community it serves. For example, some programs may concentrate their scholarly activity on quality improvement, population health, and/or teaching, while other programs might choose to utilize more classic forms of biomedical research as the focus for scholarship.

IV.D.1. Program Responsibilities

IV.D.1.a) The program must demonstrate evidence of scholarly activities consistent with its mission(s) and aims. (Core)

IV.D.1.b) The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must allocate adequate resources to facilitate resident and faculty involvement in scholarly activities. (Core)

IV.D.1.c) The program must advance residents' knowledge and practice of the scholarly approach to evidence-based patient care. (Core)

Background and Intent: The scholarly approach can be defined as a synthesis of teaching, learning, and research with the aim of encouraging curiosity and critical thinking based on an understanding of physiology, pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, treatments, treatment alternatives, efficiency of care, and patient safety. While some faculty members are responsible for fulfilling the traditional elements of scholarship through research, integration, and teaching, all faculty members are responsible for advancing residents' scholarly approach to patient care.

Elements of a scholarly approach to patient care include:

- **Asking meaningful questions to stimulate residents to utilize learning resources to create a differential diagnosis, a diagnostic algorithm, and treatment plan**
- **Challenging the evidence that the residents use to reach their medical decisions so that they understand the benefits and limits of the medical literature**
- **When appropriate, dissemination of scholarly learning in a peer-reviewed manner (publication or presentation)**
- **Improving resident learning by encouraging them to teach using a scholarly approach**

The scholarly approach to patient care begins with curiosity, is grounded in the principles of evidence-based medicine, expands the knowledge base through dissemination, and develops the habits of lifelong learning by encouraging residents to be scholarly teachers.

IV.D.2. Faculty Scholarly Activity

IV.D.2.a) **Among their scholarly activity, programs must demonstrate accomplishments in at least three of the following domains:** **(Core)**

- **Research in basic science, education, translational science, patient care, or population health**
- **Peer-reviewed grants**
- **Quality improvement and/or patient safety initiatives**
- **Systematic reviews, meta-analyses, review articles, chapters in medical textbooks, or case reports**
- **Creation of curricula, evaluation tools, didactic educational activities, or electronic educational materials**
- **Contribution to professional committees, educational organizations, or editorial boards**
- **Innovations in education**

IV.D.2.b) **The program must demonstrate dissemination of scholarly activity within and external to the program by the following methods:**

Background and Intent: For the purposes of education, metrics of scholarly activity represent one of the surrogates for the program's effectiveness in the creation of an environment of inquiry that advances the residents' scholarly approach to patient care. The Review Committee will evaluate the dissemination of scholarship for the program as a whole, not for individual faculty members, for a five-year interval, for both core and non-core faculty members, with the goal of assessing the effectiveness of the creation of such an environment. The ACGME recognizes that there may be differences in scholarship requirements between different specialties and between residencies and fellowships in the same specialty.

IV.D.2.b).(1) **faculty participation in grand rounds, posters, workshops, quality improvement presentations, podium presentations, grant leadership, non-peer-**

reviewed print/electronic resources, articles or publications, book chapters, textbooks, webinars, service on professional committees, or serving as a journal reviewer, journal editorial board member, or editor; (Outcome)‡

IV.D.2.b).(2) **peer-reviewed publication. (Outcome)**

IV.D.3. Resident Scholarly Activity

IV.D.3.a) **Residents must participate in scholarship. (Core)**

IV.D.3.b) ~~The participation of residents in clinical and/or laboratory research is encouraged.~~ (Detail)

Specialty Background and Intent: Exposure to, and participation in, multiple modes of scholarly activity that include clinical and/or laboratory research is strongly encouraged for all residents.

V. Evaluation

V.A. Resident Evaluation

V.A.1. Feedback and Evaluation

Background and Intent: Feedback is ongoing information provided regarding aspects of one's performance, knowledge, or understanding. The faculty empower residents to provide much of that feedback themselves in a spirit of continuous learning and self-reflection. Feedback from faculty members in the context of routine clinical care should be frequent, and need not always be formally documented.

Formative and summative evaluation have distinct definitions. Formative evaluation is *monitoring resident learning* and providing ongoing feedback that can be used by residents to improve their learning in the context of provision of patient care or other educational opportunities. More specifically, formative evaluations help:

- **residents identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that need work**
- **program directors and faculty members recognize where residents are struggling and address problems immediately**

Summative evaluation is *evaluating a resident's learning* by comparing the residents against the goals and objectives of the rotation and program, respectively. Summative evaluation is utilized to make decisions about promotion to the next level of training, or program completion.

End-of-rotation and end-of-year evaluations have both summative and formative components. Information from a summative evaluation can be used formatively when residents or faculty members use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent rotations and to successfully complete the residency program.

Feedback, formative evaluation, and summative evaluation compare intentions with accomplishments, enabling the transformation of a neophyte physician to one with growing expertise.

V.A.1.a) **Faculty members must directly observe, evaluate, and frequently provide feedback on resident performance during each rotation or similar educational assignment.** (Core)

Background and Intent: Faculty members should provide feedback frequently throughout the course of each rotation. Residents require feedback from faculty members to reinforce well-performed duties and tasks, as well as to correct deficiencies. This feedback will allow for the development of the learner as they strive to achieve the Milestones. More frequent feedback is strongly encouraged for residents who have deficiencies that may result in a poor final rotation evaluation.

V.A.1.b) **Evaluation must be documented at the completion of the assignment.** (Core)

V.A.1.b).(1) **For block rotations of greater than three months in duration, evaluation must be documented at least every three months.** (Core)

V.A.1.b).(2) **Longitudinal experiences, such as continuity clinic in the context of other clinical responsibilities, must be evaluated at least every three months and at completion.** (Core)

V.A.1.c) **The program must provide an objective performance evaluation based on the Competencies and the specialty-specific Milestones, and must:** (Core)

V.A.1.c).(1) **use multiple evaluators (e.g., faculty members, peers, patients, self, and other professional staff members); and,** (Core)

V.A.1.c).(2) **provide that information to the Clinical Competency Committee for its synthesis of progressive resident performance and improvement toward unsupervised practice.** (Core)

V.A.1.d) **The program director or their designee, with input from the Clinical Competency Committee, must:**

V.A.1.d).(1) **meet with and review with each resident their documented semi-annual evaluation of performance, including progress along the specialty-specific Milestones;** (Core)

V.A.1.d).(2) **assist residents in developing individualized learning plans to capitalize on their strengths and identify areas for growth; (Core)**

V.A.1.d).(3) **develop plans for residents failing to progress, following institutional policies and procedures; (Core)**

V.A.1.d).(4) include a detailed review of case volume, breadth, and complexity, and must ensure that residents are entering cases concurrently; and, (Core)

V.A.1.d).(5) specifically monitor the resident's knowledge by use of a formal exam. (Core)

V.A.1.d).(5).(a) Test results should not be the sole criterion of resident knowledge, and should not be used as the sole criterion for promotion to a subsequent PGY level. (Core)

Background and Intent: Learning is an active process that requires effort from the teacher and the learner. Faculty members evaluate a resident's performance at least at the end of each rotation. The program director or their designee will review those evaluations, including their progress on the Milestones, at a minimum of every six months. Residents should be encouraged to reflect upon the evaluation, using the information to reinforce well-performed tasks or knowledge or to modify deficiencies in knowledge or practice. Working together with the faculty members, residents should develop an individualized learning plan.

Residents who are experiencing difficulties with achieving progress along the Milestones may require intervention to address specific deficiencies. Such intervention, documented in an individual remediation plan developed by the program director or a faculty mentor and the resident, will take a variety of forms based on the specific learning needs of the resident. However, the ACGME recognizes that there are situations which require more significant intervention that may alter the time course of resident progression. To ensure due process, it is essential that the program director follow institutional policies and procedures.

V.A.1.e) **At least annually, there must be a summative evaluation of each resident that includes their readiness to progress to the next year of the program, if applicable. (Core)**

V.A.1.f) **The evaluations of a resident's performance must be accessible for review by the resident. (Core)**

V.A.2. Final Evaluation

V.A.2.a) **The program director must provide a final evaluation for each resident upon completion of the program. (Core)**

V.A.2.a).(1) **The specialty-specific Milestones, and when applicable the specialty-specific Case Logs, must be used as**

tools to ensure residents are able to engage in autonomous practice upon completion of the program. (Core)

V.A.2.a).(2) **The final evaluation must:**

V.A.2.a).(2).(a) **become part of the resident's permanent record maintained by the institution, and must be accessible for review by the resident in accordance with institutional policy;** (Core)

V.A.2.a).(2).(b) **verify that the resident has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to enter autonomous practice;** (Core)

V.A.2.a).(2).(c) **consider recommendations from the Clinical Competency Committee; and,** (Core)

V.A.2.a).(2).(d) **be shared with the resident upon completion of the program.** (Core)

V.A.3. **A Clinical Competency Committee must be appointed by the program director.** (Core)

V.A.3.a) **At a minimum, the Clinical Competency Committee must include three members of the program faculty, at least one of whom is a core faculty member.** (Core)

V.A.3.a).(1) **Additional members must be faculty members from the same program or other programs, or other health professionals who have extensive contact and experience with the program's residents.** (Core)

Background and Intent: The requirements regarding the Clinical Competency Committee do not preclude or limit a program director's participation on the Clinical Competency Committee. The intent is to leave flexibility for each program to decide the best structure for its own circumstances, but a program should consider: its program director's other roles as resident advocate, advisor, and confidante; the impact of the program director's presence on the other Clinical Competency Committee members' discussions and decisions; the size of the program faculty; and other program-relevant factors. The program director has final responsibility for resident evaluation and promotion decisions.

Program faculty may include more than the physician faculty members, such as other physicians and non-physicians who teach and evaluate the program's residents. There may be additional members of the Clinical Competency Committee. Chief residents who have completed core residency programs in their specialty may be members of the Clinical Competency Committee.

V.A.3.b) **The Clinical Competency Committee must:**

V.A.3.b).(1) review all resident evaluations at least semi-annually; (Core)

V.A.3.b).(2) determine each resident's progress on achievement of the specialty-specific Milestones; and, (Core)

V.A.3.b).(3) meet prior to the residents' semi-annual evaluations and advise the program director regarding each resident's progress. (Core)

V.B. Faculty Evaluation

V.B.1. The program must have a process to evaluate each faculty member's performance as it relates to the educational program at least annually. (Core)

Background and Intent: The program director is responsible for the education program and for whom delivers it. While the term "faculty" may be applied to physicians within a given institution for other reasons, it is applied to residency program faculty members only through approval by a program director. The development of the faculty improves the education, clinical, and research aspects of a program. Faculty members have a strong commitment to the resident and desire to provide optimal education and work opportunities. Faculty members must be provided feedback on their contribution to the mission of the program. All faculty members who interact with residents desire feedback on their education, clinical care, and research. If a faculty member does not interact with residents, feedback is not required. With regard to the diverse operating environments and configurations, the residency program director may need to work with others to determine the effectiveness of the program's faculty performance with regard to their role in the educational program. All teaching faculty members should have their educational efforts evaluated by the residents in a confidential and anonymous manner. Other aspects for the feedback may include research or clinical productivity, review of patient outcomes, or peer review of scholarly activity. The process should reflect the local environment and identify the necessary information. The feedback from the various sources should be summarized and provided to the faculty on an annual basis by a member of the leadership team of the program.

V.B.1.a) This evaluation must include a review of the faculty member's clinical teaching abilities, engagement with the educational program, participation in faculty development related to their skills as an educator, clinical performance, professionalism, and scholarly activities. (Core)

V.B.1.b) This evaluation must include written, anonymous, and confidential evaluations by the residents. (Core)

V.B.2. Faculty members must receive feedback on their evaluations at least annually. (Core)

V.B.3. Results of the faculty educational evaluations should be incorporated into program-wide faculty development plans. (Core)

Background and Intent: The quality of the faculty's teaching and clinical care is a determinant of the quality of the program and the quality of the residents' future clinical care. Therefore, the program has the responsibility to evaluate and improve the program faculty members' teaching, scholarship, professionalism, and quality care. This section mandates annual review of the program's faculty members for this purpose, and can be used as input into the Annual Program Evaluation.

V.C. Program Evaluation and Improvement

V.C.1. The program director must appoint the Program Evaluation Committee to conduct and document the Annual Program Evaluation as part of the program's continuous improvement process. (Core)

V.C.1.a) The Program Evaluation Committee must be composed of at least two program faculty members, at least one of whom is a core faculty member, and at least one resident. (Core)

V.C.1.b) Program Evaluation Committee responsibilities must include:

V.C.1.b).(1) acting as an advisor to the program director, through program oversight; (Core)

V.C.1.b).(2) review of the program's self-determined goals and progress toward meeting them; (Core)

V.C.1.b).(3) guiding ongoing program improvement, including development of new goals, based upon outcomes; and, (Core)

V.C.1.b).(4) review of the current operating environment to identify strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats as related to the program's mission and aims. (Core)

Background and Intent: In order to achieve its mission and train quality physicians, a program must evaluate its performance and plan for improvement in the Annual Program Evaluation. Performance of residents and faculty members is a reflection of program quality, and can use metrics that reflect the goals that a program has set for itself. The Program Evaluation Committee utilizes outcome parameters and other data to assess the program's progress toward achievement of its goals and aims.

V.C.1.c) The Program Evaluation Committee should consider the following elements in its assessment of the program:

V.C.1.c).(1) curriculum; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(2) outcomes from prior Annual Program Evaluation(s); (Core)

V.C.1.c).(3) ACGME letters of notification, including citations, Areas for Improvement, and comments; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(4) quality and safety of patient care; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5) aggregate resident and faculty:

V.C.1.c).(5).(a) well-being; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(b) recruitment and retention; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(c) workforce diversity; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(d) engagement in quality improvement and patient safety; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(e) scholarly activity; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(f) ACGME Resident and Faculty Surveys; and, (Core)

V.C.1.c).(5).(g) written evaluations of the program. (Core)

V.C.1.c).(6) aggregate resident:

V.C.1.c).(6).(a) achievement of the Milestones; (Core)

V.C.1.c).(6).(b) in-training examinations (where applicable); (Core)

V.C.1.c).(6).(c) board pass and certification rates; and, (Core)

V.C.1.c).(6).(d) graduate performance. (Cor

V.C.1.c).(7) aggregate faculty:

V.C.1.c).(7).(a) evaluation; and, (Core)

V.C.1.c).(7).(b) professional development. (Core)

V.C.1.d) The Program Evaluation Committee must evaluate the program's mission and aims, strengths, areas for improvement, and threats. (Core)

V.C.1.e) The annual review, including the action plan, must:

V.C.1.e).(1) be distributed to and discussed with the members of the teaching faculty and the residents; and, (Core)

V.C.1.e).(2) be submitted to the DIO. (Core)

V.C.2. The program must complete a Self-Study prior to its 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit. (Core)

V.C.2.a) **A summary of the Self-Study must be submitted to the DIO.** **(Core)**

Background and Intent: Outcomes of the documented Annual Program Evaluation can be integrated into the 10-year Self-Study process. The Self-Study is an objective, comprehensive evaluation of the residency program, with the aim of improving it. Underlying the Self-Study is this longitudinal evaluation of the program and its learning environment, facilitated through sequential Annual Program Evaluations that focus on the required components, with an emphasis on program strengths and self-identified areas for improvement. Details regarding the timing and expectations for the Self-Study and the 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit are provided in the *ACGME Manual of Policies and Procedures*. Additionally, a description of the Self-Study process, as well as information on how to prepare for the 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit, is available on the ACGME website.

V.C.3. ***One goal of ACGME-accredited education is to educate physicians who seek and achieve board certification. One measure of the effectiveness of the educational program is the ultimate pass rate.***

The program director should encourage all eligible program graduates to take the certifying examination offered by the applicable American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certifying board.

V.C.3.a) **For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA certifying board offer(s) an annual written exam, in the preceding three years, the program's aggregate pass rate of those taking the examination for the first time must be higher than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.** **(Outcome)**

V.C.3.b) **For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA certifying board offer(s) a biennial written exam, in the preceding six years, the program's aggregate pass rate of those taking the examination for the first time must be higher than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.** **(Outcome)**

V.C.3.c) **For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA certifying board offer(s) an annual oral exam, in the preceding three years, the program's aggregate pass rate of those taking the examination for the first time must be higher than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.** **(Outcome)**

V.C.3.d) **For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA certifying board offer(s) a biennial oral exam, in the preceding six years, the program's aggregate pass rate of those taking the examination for the first time must be higher than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.** **(Outcome)**

V.C.3.e) **For each of the exams referenced in V.C.3.a)-d), any program whose graduates over the time period specified in the requirement have achieved an 80 percent pass rate will have met this requirement, no matter the percentile rank of the program for pass rate in that specialty. (Outcome)**

Background and Intent: Setting a single standard for pass rate that works across specialties is not supportable based on the heterogeneity of the psychometrics of different examinations. By using a percentile rank, the performance of the lower five percent (fifth percentile) of programs can be identified and set on a path to curricular and test preparation reform.

There are specialties where there is a very high board pass rate that could leave successful programs in the bottom five percent (fifth percentile) despite admirable performance. These high-performing programs should not be cited, and V.C.3.e) is designed to address this.

V.C.3.f) **Programs must report, in ADS, board certification status annually for the cohort of board-eligible residents that graduated seven years earlier. (Core)**

Background and Intent: It is essential that residency programs demonstrate knowledge and skill transfer to their residents. One measure of that is the qualifying or initial certification exam pass rate. Another important parameter of the success of the program is the ultimate board certification rate of its graduates. Graduates are eligible for up to seven years from residency graduation for initial certification. The ACGME will calculate a rolling three-year average of the ultimate board certification rate at seven years post-graduation, and the Review Committees will monitor it.

The Review Committees will track the rolling seven-year certification rate as an indicator of program quality. Programs are encouraged to monitor their graduates' performance on board certification examinations.

In the future, the ACGME may establish parameters related to ultimate board certification rates.

VI. The Learning and Working Environment

Residency education must occur in the context of a learning and working environment that emphasizes the following principles:

- ***Excellence in the safety and quality of care rendered to patients by residents today***
- ***Excellence in the safety and quality of care rendered to patients by today's residents in their future practice***
- ***Excellence in professionalism through faculty modeling of:***

- *the effacement of self-interest in a humanistic environment that supports the professional development of physicians*

- *the joy of curiosity, problem-solving, intellectual rigor, and discovery*

- ***Commitment to the well-being of the students, residents, faculty members, and all members of the health care team***

Background and Intent: The revised requirements are intended to provide greater flexibility within an established framework, allowing programs and residents more discretion to structure clinical education in a way that best supports the above principles of professional development. With this increased flexibility comes the responsibility for programs and residents to adhere to the 80-hour maximum weekly limit (unless a rotation-specific exception is granted by a Review Committee), and to utilize flexibility in a manner that optimizes patient safety, resident education, and resident well-being. The requirements are intended to support the development of a sense of professionalism by encouraging residents to make decisions based on patient needs and their own well-being, without fear of jeopardizing their program's accreditation status. In addition, the proposed requirements eliminate the burdensome documentation requirement for residents to justify clinical and educational work hour variations.

Clinical and educational work hours represent only one part of the larger issue of conditions of the learning and working environment, and Section VI has now been expanded to include greater attention to patient safety and resident and faculty member well-being. The requirements are intended to support programs and residents as they strive for excellence, while also ensuring ethical, humanistic training. Ensuring that flexibility is used in an appropriate manner is a shared responsibility of the program and residents. With this flexibility comes a responsibility for residents and faculty members to recognize the need to hand off care of a patient to another provider when a resident is too fatigued to provide safe, high quality care and for programs to ensure that residents remain within the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.

VI.A. Patient Safety, Quality Improvement, Supervision, and Accountability

VI.A.1. Patient Safety and Quality Improvement

All physicians share responsibility for promoting patient safety and enhancing quality of patient care. Graduate medical education must prepare residents to provide the highest level of clinical care with continuous focus on the safety, individual needs, and humanity of their patients. It is the right of each patient to be cared for by residents who are appropriately supervised; possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities; understand the limits of their knowledge and experience; and seek assistance as required to provide optimal patient care.

Residents must demonstrate the ability to analyze the care they provide, understand their roles within health care teams, and play an active role in system improvement processes. Graduating residents

will apply these skills to critique their future unsupervised practice and effect quality improvement measures.

It is necessary for residents and faculty members to consistently work in a well-coordinated manner with other health care professionals to achieve organizational patient safety goals.

VI.A.1.a) **Patient Safety**

VI.A.1.a).(1) **Culture of Safety**

A culture of safety requires continuous identification of vulnerabilities and a willingness to transparently deal with them. An effective organization has formal mechanisms to assess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of its personnel toward safety in order to identify areas for improvement.

VI.A.1.a).(1).(a) **The program, its faculty, residents, and fellows must actively participate in patient safety systems and contribute to a culture of safety. (Core)**

VI.A.1.a).(1).(b) **The program must have a structure that promotes safe, interprofessional, team-based care. (Core)**

VI.A.1.a).(2) **Education on Patient Safety**

Programs must provide formal educational activities that promote patient safety-related goals, tools, and techniques. (Core)

Background and Intent: Optimal patient safety occurs in the setting of a coordinated interprofessional learning and working environment.

VI.A.1.a).(3) **Patient Safety Events**

Reporting, investigation, and follow-up of adverse events, near misses, and unsafe conditions are pivotal mechanisms for improving patient safety, and are essential for the success of any patient safety program. Feedback and experiential learning are essential to developing true competence in the ability to identify causes and institute sustainable systems-based changes to ameliorate patient safety vulnerabilities.

VI.A.1.a).(3).(a) **Residents, fellows, faculty members, and other clinical staff members must:**

VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(i) know their responsibilities in reporting patient safety events at the clinical site; (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(ii) know how to report patient safety events, including near misses, at the clinical site; and, (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(iii) be provided with summary information of their institution's patient safety reports. (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(3).(b) Residents must participate as team members in real and/or simulated interprofessional clinical patient safety activities, such as root cause analyses or other activities that include analysis, as well as formulation and implementation of actions. (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(4) Resident Education and Experience in Disclosure of Adverse Events

Patient-centered care requires patients, and when appropriate families, to be apprised of clinical situations that affect them, including adverse events. This is an important skill for faculty physicians to model, and for residents to develop and apply.

VI.A.1.a).(4).(a) All residents must receive training in how to disclose adverse events to patients and families. (Core)

VI.A.1.a).(4).(b) Residents should have the opportunity to participate in the disclosure of patient safety events, real or simulated. (Detail)

VI.A.1.b) Quality Improvement

VI.A.1.b).(1) Education in Quality Improvement

A cohesive model of health care includes quality-related goals, tools, and techniques that are necessary in order for health care professionals to achieve quality improvement goals.

VI.A.1.b).(1).(a) Residents must receive training and experience in quality improvement processes, including an understanding of health care disparities. (Core)

VI.A.1.b).(2) Quality Metrics

Access to data is essential to prioritizing activities for care improvement and evaluating success of improvement efforts.

VI.A.1.b).(2).(a) **Residents and faculty members must receive data on quality metrics and benchmarks related to their patient populations.** (Core)

VI.A.1.b).(3) **Engagement in Quality Improvement Activities**

Experiential learning is essential to developing the ability to identify and institute sustainable systems-based changes to improve patient care.

VI.A.1.b).(3).(a) **Residents must have the opportunity to participate in interprofessional quality improvement activities.** (Core)

VI.A.1.b).(3).(a).(i) **This should include activities aimed at reducing health care disparities.** (Detail)

VI.A.2. Supervision and Accountability

VI.A.2.a) ***Although the attending physician is ultimately responsible for the care of the patient, every physician shares in the responsibility and accountability for their efforts in the provision of care. Effective programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, define, widely communicate, and monitor a structured chain of responsibility and accountability as it relates to the supervision of all patient care.***

Supervision in the setting of graduate medical education provides safe and effective care to patients; ensures each resident's development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine; and establishes a foundation for continued professional growth.

VI.A.2.a).(1) **Each patient must have an identifiable and appropriately-credentialed and privileged attending physician (or licensed independent practitioner as specified by the applicable Review Committee) who is responsible and accountable for the patient's care.** (Core)

VI.A.2.a).(1).(a) **This information must be available to residents, faculty members, other members of the health care team, and patients.** (Core)

VI.A.2.a).(1).(b) **Residents and faculty members must inform each patient of their respective roles in that**

patient's care when providing direct patient care. (Core)

VI.A.2.b) ***Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods. For many aspects of patient care, the supervising physician may be a more advanced resident or fellow. Other portions of care provided by the resident can be adequately supervised by the appropriate availability of the supervising faculty member, fellow, or senior resident physician, either on site or by means of telecommunication technology. Some activities require the physical presence of the supervising faculty member. In some circumstances, supervision may include post-hoc review of resident-delivered care with feedback.***

Background and Intent: There are circumstances where direct supervision without physical presence does not fulfill the requirements of the specific Review Committee. Review Committees will further specify what is meant by direct supervision without physical presence in specialties where allowed. "Physically present" is defined as follows: The teaching physician is located in the same room (or partitioned or curtained area, if the room is subdivided to accommodate multiple patients) as the patient and/or performs a face-to-face service.

VI.A.2.b).(1) **The program must demonstrate that the appropriate level of supervision in place for all residents is based on each resident's level of training and ability, as well as patient complexity and acuity. Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods, as appropriate to the situation.** (Core)

VI.A.2.b).(2) **The program must define when physical presence of a supervising physician is required.** (Core)

VI.A.2.c) **Levels of Supervision**

To promote appropriate resident supervision while providing for graded authority and responsibility, the program must use the following classification of supervision: (Core)

VI.A.2.c).(1) **Direct Supervision:**

VI.A.2.c).(1).(a) **the supervising physician is physically present with the resident during the key portions of the patient interaction.** (Core)

VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i) **PGY-1 residents must initially be supervised directly, only as described in VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).** (Core)

VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i).(a) The program must define those physician tasks for which PGY-1 residents may be supervised

indirectly, with direct supervision available, and must define “direct supervision” in the context of the program. (Detail) [Moved from VI.A.2.e).(1).(a).(i)]

VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i).(b) The program must define those physician tasks for which PGY-1 residents must be supervised directly until they have demonstrated competence as defined by the program director, and must maintain records of such demonstrations of competence. (Detail) [Moved from VI.A.2.e).(1).(a).(ii)]

VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i).(c) The program should use the template of definitions provided in the FAQ or a variation of the template to develop these definitions. (Detail) [Moved from VI.A.2.e).(1).(a).(iii)]

VI.A.2.c).(2) Indirect Supervision: the supervising physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available to the resident for guidance and is available to provide appropriate direct supervision. (Core)

VI.A.2.c).(3) Oversight – the supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered. (Core)

VI.A.2.d) The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence, and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each resident must be assigned by the program director and faculty members. (Core)

VI.A.2.d).(1) The program director must evaluate each resident’s abilities based on specific criteria, guided by the Milestones. (Core)

VI.A.2.d).(2) Faculty members functioning as supervising physicians must delegate portions of care to residents based on the needs of the patient and the skills of each resident. (Core)

VI.A.2.d).(3) Senior residents or fellows should serve in a supervisory role to junior residents in recognition of their progress toward independence, based on the

needs of each patient and the skills of the individual resident or fellow. (Detail)

VI.A.2.e) Programs must set guidelines for circumstances and events in which residents must communicate with the supervising faculty member(s). (Core)

VI.A.2.e).(1) Each resident must know the limits of their scope of authority, and the circumstances under which the resident is permitted to act with conditional independence. (Outcome)

Background and Intent: The ACGME Glossary of Terms defines conditional independence as: Graded, progressive responsibility for patient care with defined oversight.

VI.A.2.f) Faculty supervision assignments must be of sufficient duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each resident and to delegate to the resident the appropriate level of patient care authority and responsibility. (Core)

VI.B. Professionalism

VI.B.1. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must educate residents and faculty members concerning the professional responsibilities of physicians, including their obligation to be appropriately rested and fit to provide the care required by their patients. (Core)

VI.B.2. The learning objectives of the program must:

VI.B.2.a) be accomplished through an appropriate blend of supervised patient care responsibilities, clinical teaching, and didactic educational events; (Core)

VI.B.2.b) be accomplished without excessive reliance on residents to fulfill non-physician obligations; and, (Core)

Background and Intent: Routine reliance on residents to fulfill non-physician obligations increases work compression for residents and does not provide an optimal educational experience. Non-physician obligations are those duties which in most institutions are performed by nursing and allied health professionals, transport services, or clerical staff. Examples of such obligations include transport of patients from the wards or units for procedures elsewhere in the hospital; routine blood drawing for laboratory tests; routine monitoring of patients when off the ward; and clerical duties, such as scheduling. While it is understood that residents may be expected to do any of these things on occasion when the need arises, these activities should not be performed by residents routinely and must be kept to a minimum to optimize resident education.

VI.B.2.c) ensure manageable patient care responsibilities. (Core)

Background and Intent: The Common Program Requirements do not define "manageable patient care responsibilities" as this is variable by specialty and PGY level. Review Committees will provide further detail regarding patient care responsibilities in the applicable specialty-specific Program Requirements and accompanying FAQs. However, all programs, regardless of specialty, should carefully assess how the assignment of patient care responsibilities can affect work compression, especially at the PGY-1 level.

VI.B.3. **The program director, in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution, must provide a culture of professionalism that supports patient safety and personal responsibility.** (Core)

VI.B.4. **Residents and faculty members must demonstrate an understanding of their personal role in the:**

VI.B.4.a) **provision of patient- and family-centered care;** (Outcome)

VI.B.4.b) **safety and welfare of patients entrusted to their care, including the ability to report unsafe conditions and adverse events;** (Outcome)

Background and Intent: This requirement emphasizes that responsibility for reporting unsafe conditions and adverse events is shared by all members of the team and is not solely the responsibility of the resident.

VI.B.4.c) **assurance of their fitness for work, including:** (Outcome)

Background and Intent: This requirement emphasizes the professional responsibility of faculty members and residents to arrive for work adequately rested and ready to care for patients. It is also the responsibility of faculty members, residents, and other members of the care team to be observant, to intervene, and/or to escalate their concern about resident and faculty member fitness for work, depending on the situation, and in accordance with institutional policies.

VI.B.4.c).(1) **management of their time before, during, and after clinical assignments; and,** (Outcome)

VI.B.4.c).(2) **recognition of impairment, including from illness, fatigue, and substance use, in themselves, their peers, and other members of the health care team.** (Outcome)

VI.B.4.d) **commitment to lifelong learning;** (Outcome)

VI.B.4.e) **monitoring of their patient care performance improvement indicators; and,** (Outcome)

VI.B.4.f) **accurate reporting of clinical and educational work hours, patient outcomes, and clinical experience data.** (Outcome)

VI.B.5. **All residents and faculty members must demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest. This includes the recognition that under certain circumstances, the best interests of the patient may be served by transitioning that patient's care to another qualified and rested provider.** (Outcome)

VI.B.6. **Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must provide a professional, equitable, respectful, and civil environment that is free from discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, mistreatment, abuse, or coercion of students, residents, faculty, and staff.** (Core)

VI.B.7. **Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, should have a process for education of residents and faculty regarding unprofessional behavior and a confidential process for reporting, investigating, and addressing such concerns.** (Core)

VI.C. Well-Being

Psychological, emotional, and physical well-being are critical in the development of the competent, caring, and resilient physician and require proactive attention to life inside and outside of medicine. Well-being requires that physicians retain the joy in medicine while managing their own real-life stresses. Self-care and responsibility to support other members of the health care team are important components of professionalism; they are also skills that must be modeled, learned, and nurtured in the context of other aspects of residency training.

Residents and faculty members are at risk for burnout and depression. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, have the same responsibility to address well-being as other aspects of resident competence. Physicians and all members of the health care team share responsibility for the well-being of each other. For example, a culture which encourages covering for colleagues after an illness without the expectation of reciprocity reflects the ideal of professionalism. A positive culture in a clinical learning environment models constructive behaviors, and prepares residents with the skills and attitudes needed to thrive throughout their careers.

Background and Intent: The ACGME is committed to addressing physician well-being for individuals and as it relates to the learning and working environment. The creation of a learning and working environment with a culture of respect and accountability for physician well-being is crucial to physicians' ability to deliver the safest, best possible care to patients. The ACGME is leveraging its resources in four key areas to support the ongoing focus on physician well-being: education, influence, research, and collaboration. Information regarding the ACGME's ongoing efforts in this area is available on the ACGME website.

As these efforts evolve, information will be shared with programs seeking to develop and/or strengthen their own well-being initiatives. In addition, there are many activities that programs can utilize now to assess and support physician well-being. These

include culture of safety surveys, ensuring the availability of counseling services, and attention to the safety of the entire health care team.

VI.C.1. **The responsibility of the program, in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution, to address well-being must include:**

VI.C.1.a) **efforts to enhance the meaning that each resident finds in the experience of being a physician, including protecting time with patients, minimizing non-physician obligations, providing administrative support, promoting progressive autonomy and flexibility, and enhancing professional relationships; (Core)**

VI.C.1.b) **attention to scheduling, work intensity, and work compression that impacts resident well-being; (Core)**

VI.C.1.c) **evaluating workplace safety data and addressing the safety of residents and faculty members; (Core)**

Background and Intent: This requirement emphasizes the responsibility shared by the Sponsoring Institution and its programs to gather information and utilize systems that monitor and enhance resident and faculty member safety, including physical safety. Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to, monitoring of workplace injuries, physical or emotional violence, vehicle collisions, and emotional well-being after adverse events.

VI.C.1.d) **policies and programs that encourage optimal resident and faculty member well-being; and, (Core)**

Background and Intent: Well-being includes having time away from work to engage with family and friends, as well as to attend to personal needs and to one's own health, including adequate rest, healthy diet, and regular exercise.

VI.C.1.d).(1) **Residents must be given the opportunity to attend medical, mental health, and dental care appointments, including those scheduled during their working hours. (Core)**

Background and Intent: The intent of this requirement is to ensure that residents have the opportunity to access medical and dental care, including mental health care, at times that are appropriate to their individual circumstances. Residents must be provided with time away from the program as needed to access care, including appointments scheduled during their working hours.

VI.C.1.e) **attention to resident and faculty member burnout, depression, and substance abuse. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must educate faculty members and residents in identification of the symptoms of burnout, depression, and substance abuse, including means to assist those who experience these**

conditions. Residents and faculty members must also be educated to recognize those symptoms in themselves and how to seek appropriate care. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must: (Core)

Background and Intent: Programs and Sponsoring Institutions are encouraged to review materials in order to create systems for identification of burnout, depression, and substance abuse. Materials and more information are available on the Physician Well-being section of the ACGME website (http://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Initiatives/Physician-Well-Being).

VI.C.1.e).(1) **encourage residents and faculty members to alert the program director or other designated personnel or programs when they are concerned that another resident, fellow, or faculty member may be displaying signs of burnout, depression, substance abuse, suicidal ideation, or potential for violence;** (Core)

Background and Intent: Individuals experiencing burnout, depression, substance abuse, and/or suicidal ideation are often reluctant to reach out for help due to the stigma associated with these conditions, and are concerned that seeking help may have a negative impact on their career. Recognizing that physicians are at increased risk in these areas, it is essential that residents and faculty members are able to report their concerns when another resident or faculty member displays signs of any of these conditions, so that the program director or other designated personnel, such as the department chair, may assess the situation and intervene as necessary to facilitate access to appropriate care. Residents and faculty members must know which personnel, in addition to the program director, have been designated with this responsibility; those personnel and the program director should be familiar with the institution's impaired physician policy and any employee health, employee assistance, and/or wellness programs within the institution. In cases of physician impairment, the program director or designated personnel should follow the policies of their institution for reporting.

VI.C.1.e).(2) **provide access to appropriate tools for self-screening; and,** (Core)

VI.C.1.e).(3) **provide access to confidential, affordable mental health assessment, counseling, and treatment, including access to urgent and emergent care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.** (Core)

Background and Intent: The intent of this requirement is to ensure that residents have immediate access at all times to a mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Primary Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, or Licensed Professional Counselor) for urgent or emergent mental health issues. In-person, telemedicine, or telephonic means may be utilized to satisfy this requirement. Care in the Emergency Department may be necessary in some cases, but not as the primary or sole means to meet the requirement.

The reference to affordable counseling is intended to require that financial cost not be a barrier to obtaining care.

VI.C.2. **There are circumstances in which residents may be unable to attend work, including but not limited to fatigue, illness, family emergencies, and parental leave. Each program must allow an appropriate length of absence for residents unable to perform their patient care responsibilities.** (Core)

VI.C.2.a) **The program must have policies and procedures in place to ensure coverage of patient care.** (Core)

VI.C.2.b) **These policies must be implemented without fear of negative consequences for the resident who is or was unable to provide the clinical work.** (Core)

Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: The Review Committee recognizes circumstances in which residents may need additional/extended time away from the program. Residents may take additional leave for medical illness, parental care (all circumstances), or caring for a sick immediate family member. Residents are responsible for communicating with their intended certifying board to ensure their understanding of the board's leave policies.

Background and Intent: Residents may need to extend their length of training depending on length of absence and specialty board eligibility requirements. Teammates should assist colleagues in need and equitably reintegrate them upon return.

VI.D. **Fatigue Mitigation**

VI.D.1. **Programs must:**

VI.D.1.a) **educate all faculty members and residents to recognize the signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation;** (Core)

VI.D.1.b) **educate all faculty members and residents in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes; and,** (Core)

VI.D.1.c) **encourage residents to use fatigue mitigation processes to manage the potential negative effects of fatigue on patient care and learning.** (Detail)

Background and Intent: Providing medical care to patients is physically and mentally demanding. Night shifts, even for those who have had enough rest, cause fatigue. Experiencing fatigue in a supervised environment during training prepares residents for managing fatigue in practice. It is expected that programs adopt fatigue mitigation processes and ensure that there are no negative consequences and/or stigma for using fatigue mitigation strategies.

This requirement emphasizes the importance of adequate rest before and after clinical responsibilities. Strategies that may be used include, but are not limited to, strategic

napping; the judicious use of caffeine; availability of other caregivers; time management to maximize sleep off-duty; learning to recognize the signs of fatigue, and self-monitoring performance and/or asking others to monitor performance; remaining active to promote alertness; maintaining a healthy diet; using relaxation techniques to fall asleep; maintaining a consistent sleep routine; exercising regularly; increasing sleep time before and after call; and ensuring sufficient sleep recovery periods.

VI.D.2. **Each program must ensure continuity of patient care, consistent with the program's policies and procedures referenced in VI.C.2–VI.C.2.b), in the event that a resident may be unable to perform their patient care responsibilities due to excessive fatigue.** **(Core)**

VI.D.3. **The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must ensure adequate sleep facilities and safe transportation options for residents who may be too fatigued to safely return home.** **(Core)**

VI.E. Clinical Responsibilities, Teamwork, and Transitions of Care

VI.E.1. Clinical Responsibilities

The clinical responsibilities for each resident must be based on PGY level, patient safety, resident ability, severity and complexity of patient illness/condition, and available support services. **(Core)**

Background and Intent: The changing clinical care environment of medicine has meant that work compression due to high complexity has increased stress on residents. Faculty members and program directors need to make sure residents function in an environment that has safe patient care and a sense of resident well-being. Some Review Committees have addressed this by setting limits on patient admissions, and it is an essential responsibility of the program director to monitor resident workload. Workload should be distributed among the resident team and interdisciplinary teams to minimize work compression.

VI.E.2. Teamwork

Residents must care for patients in an environment that maximizes communication. This must include the opportunity to work as a member of effective interprofessional teams that are appropriate to the delivery of care in the specialty and larger health system. **(Core)**

VI.E.2.a) The provision of optimal care is a continuum from the initial encounter with the patient until ~~follow-up appropriate to that~~ the patient's surgical disorder(s) is appropriately and completely treated. (Detail)

VI.E.2.b) During the residency education process, surgical teams should be made up of attending surgeons, residents at various PGY levels, medical students (when appropriate), and other health care providers. (Detail)

VI.E.2.c) The work of the caregiver team should be assigned to team members based on each resident's level of education, experience, and competence. (Detail)

VI.E.2.d) Care of the surgical patient requires the effective involvement of nurses, therapists, advanced practice providers, and other personnel, and often requires the involvement of physicians from other disciplines. Residents must demonstrate an unwavering respect for the skills and contributions of other members of the surgical care team, as well as commitment to the optimal comprehensive care of the patient. (Core)

VI.E.2.e) Residents must collaborate with attending surgeons, other residents, and other members of interprofessional and multidisciplinary teams to formulate treatment plans for a diverse patient population. (Core)

VI.E.2.f) Residents must assume personal responsibility to complete all tasks to which they are assigned (or which they voluntarily assume) in a timely fashion. These tasks must be completed in the hours assigned, or, if that is not possible, residents must learn and utilize the established methods for handing off remaining tasks to another member of the resident team so that patient care is not compromised. (Detail)

VI.E.2.g) Lines of authority should be defined by programs, and all residents must have a working knowledge of these expected reporting relationships to maximize quality care and patient safety. (Detail)

VI.E.3. Transitions of Care

VI.E.3.a) Programs must design clinical assignments to optimize transitions in patient care, including their safety, frequency, and structure. (Core)

VI.E.3.b) Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must ensure and monitor effective, structured hand-over processes to facilitate both continuity of care and patient safety. (Core)

VI.E.3.c) Programs must ensure that residents are competent in communicating with team members in the hand-over process. (Outcome)

VI.E.3.d) Programs and clinical sites must maintain and communicate schedules of attending physicians and residents currently responsible for care. (Core)

VI.E.3.e) Each program must ensure continuity of patient care, consistent with the program's policies and procedures

referenced in VI.C.2-VI.C.2.b), in the event that a resident may be unable to perform their patient care responsibilities due to excessive fatigue or illness, or family emergency. (Core)

VI.F. Clinical Experience and Education

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational and clinical experience opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal activities.

Background and Intent: In the new requirements, the terms "clinical experience and education," "clinical and educational work," and "clinical and educational work hours" replace the terms "duty hours," "duty periods," and "duty." These changes have been made in response to concerns that the previous use of the term "duty" in reference to number of hours worked may have led some to conclude that residents' duty to "clock out" on time superseded their duty to their patients.

VI.F.1. Maximum Hours of Clinical and Educational Work per Week

Clinical and educational work hours must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home, and all moonlighting. (Core)

Background and Intent: Programs and residents have a shared responsibility to ensure that the 80-hour maximum weekly limit is not exceeded. While the requirement has been written with the intent of allowing residents to remain beyond their scheduled work periods to care for a patient or participate in an educational activity, these additional hours must be accounted for in the allocated 80 hours when averaged over four weeks.

Scheduling

While the ACGME acknowledges that, on rare occasions, a resident may work in excess of 80 hours in a given week, all programs and residents utilizing this flexibility will be required to adhere to the 80-hour maximum weekly limit when averaged over a four-week period. Programs that regularly schedule residents to work 80 hours per week and still permit residents to remain beyond their scheduled work period are likely to exceed the 80-hour maximum, which would not be in substantial compliance with the requirement. These programs should adjust schedules so that residents are scheduled to work fewer than 80 hours per week, which would allow residents to remain beyond their scheduled work period when needed without violating the 80-hour requirement. Programs may wish to consider using night float and/or making adjustments to the frequency of in-house call to ensure compliance with the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.

Oversight

With increased flexibility introduced into the Requirements, programs permitting this flexibility will need to account for the potential for residents to remain beyond their assigned work periods when developing schedules, to avoid exceeding the 80-hour maximum weekly limit, averaged over four weeks. The ACGME Review Committees will strictly monitor and enforce compliance with the 80-hour requirement. Where violations

of the 80-hour requirement are identified, programs will be subject to citation and at risk for an adverse accreditation action.

Work from Home

While the requirement specifies that clinical work done from home must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit, the expectation remains that scheduling be structured so that residents are able to complete most work on site during scheduled clinical work hours without requiring them to take work home. The new requirements acknowledge the changing landscape of medicine, including electronic health records, and the resulting increase in the amount of work residents choose to do from home. The requirement provides flexibility for residents to do this while ensuring that the time spent by residents completing clinical work from home is accomplished within the 80-hour weekly maximum. Types of work from home that must be counted include using an electronic health record and taking calls from home. Reading done in preparation for the following day's cases, studying, and research done from home do not count toward the 80 hours. Resident decisions to leave the hospital before their clinical work has been completed and to finish that work later from home should be made in consultation with the resident's supervisor. In such circumstances, residents should be mindful of their professional responsibility to complete work in a timely manner and to maintain patient confidentiality.

During the public comment period many individuals raised questions and concerns related to this change. Some questioned whether minute by minute tracking would be required; in other words, if a resident spends three minutes on a phone call and then a few hours later spends two minutes on another call, will the resident need to report that time. Others raised concerns related to the ability of programs and institutions to verify the accuracy of the information reported by residents. The new requirements are not an attempt to micromanage this process. Residents are to track the time they spend on clinical work from home and to report that time to the program. Decisions regarding whether to report infrequent phone calls of very short duration will be left to the individual resident. Programs will need to factor in time residents are spending on clinical work at home when schedules are developed to ensure that residents are not working in excess of 80 hours per week, averaged over four weeks. There is no requirement that programs assume responsibility for documenting this time. Rather, the program's responsibility is ensuring that residents report their time from home and that schedules are structured to ensure that residents are not working in excess of 80 hours per week, averaged over four weeks.

PGY-1 and PGY-2 Residents

PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents may not have the experience to make decisions about when it is appropriate to utilize flexibility or may feel pressured to use it when unnecessary. Programs are responsible for ensuring that residents are provided with manageable workloads that can be accomplished during scheduled work hours. This includes ensuring that a resident's assigned direct patient load is manageable, that residents have appropriate support from their clinical teams, and that residents are not overburdened with clerical work and/or other non-physician duties.

VI.F.2. Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education

VI.F.2.a) The program must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational

opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal well-being. (Core)

VI.F.2.b) **Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods.** (Detail)

VI.F.2.b).(1) **There may be circumstances when residents choose to stay to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical experience and education. This must occur within the context of the 80-hour and the one-day-off-in-seven requirements.** (Detail)

Background and Intent: While it is expected that resident schedules will be structured to ensure that residents are provided with a minimum of eight hours off between scheduled work periods, it is recognized that residents may choose to remain beyond their scheduled time, or return to the clinical site during this time-off period, to care for a patient. The requirement preserves the flexibility for residents to make those choices. It is also noted that the 80-hour weekly limit (averaged over four weeks) is a deterrent for scheduling fewer than eight hours off between clinical and education work periods, as it would be difficult for a program to design a schedule that provides fewer than eight hours off without violating the 80-hour rule.

VI.F.2.c) **Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.** (Core)

Background and Intent: Residents have a responsibility to return to work rested, and thus are expected to use this time away from work to get adequate rest. In support of this goal, residents are encouraged to prioritize sleep over other discretionary activities.

VI.F.2.d) **Residents must be scheduled for a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over four weeks). At-home call cannot be assigned on these free days.** (Core)

Background and Intent: The requirement provides flexibility for programs to distribute days off in a manner that meets program and resident needs. It is strongly recommended that residents' preference regarding how their days off are distributed be considered as schedules are developed. It is desirable that days off be distributed throughout the month, but some residents may prefer to group their days off to have a "golden weekend," meaning a consecutive Saturday and Sunday free from work. The requirement for one free day in seven should not be interpreted as precluding a golden weekend. Where feasible, schedules may be designed to provide residents with a weekend, or two consecutive days, free of work. The applicable Review Committee will evaluate the number of consecutive days of work and determine whether they meet educational objectives. Programs are encouraged to distribute days off in a fashion that optimizes resident well-being, and educational and personal goals. It is noted that a day off is defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms as "one (1) continuous 24-hour period free from all administrative, clinical, and educational activities."

VI.F.3. Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length

VI.F.3.a) Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments. (Core)

Background and Intent: The Task Force examined the question of "consecutive time on task." It examined the research supporting the current limit of 16 consecutive hours of time on task for PGY-1 residents; the range of often conflicting impacts of this requirement on patient safety, clinical care, and continuity of care by resident teams; and resident learning found in the literature. Finally, it heard a uniform request by the specialty societies, certifying boards, membership societies and organizations, and senior residents to repeal this requirement. It heard conflicting perspectives from resident unions, a medical student association, and a number of public advocacy groups, some arguing for continuation of the requirement, others arguing for extension of the requirement to all residents.

Of greatest concern to the Task Force were the observations of disruption of team care and patient care continuity brought about with residents beyond the PGY-1 level adhering to differing requirements. The graduate medical education community uniformly requested that the Task Force remove this requirement. The most frequently-cited reason for this request was the complete disruption of the team, separating the PGY-1 from supervisory faculty members and residents who were best able to judge the ability of the resident and customize the supervision of patient care for each PGY-1. Cited nearly as frequently was the separation of the PGY-1 from the team, delaying maturation of clinical skills, and threatening to create a "shift" mentality in disciplines where overnight availability to patients is essential in delivery of care.

The Task Force examined the impact of the request to consider 16-consecutive-hour limits for all residents, and rejected the proposition. It found that model incompatible with the actual practice of medicine and surgery in many specialties, excessively limiting in configuration of clinical services in many disciplines, and potentially disruptive of the inculcation of responsibility and professional commitment to altruism and placing the needs of patients above those of the physician.

After careful consideration of the information available, the testimony and position of all parties submitting information, and presentations to the Task Force, the Task Force removed the 16-hour-consecutive-time-on-task requirement for PGY-1 residents. It remains crucial that programs ensure that PGY-1 residents are supervised in compliance with the applicable Program Requirements, and that resident well-being is prioritized as described in Section VI.C. of these requirements.

VI.F.3.a).(1) Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care, and/or resident education. (Core)

VI.F.3.a).(1).(a) Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time. (Core)

Background and Intent: The additional time referenced in VI.F.3.a).(1) should not be used for the care of new patients. It is essential that the resident continue to function as a member of the team in an environment where other members of the team can assess resident fatigue, and that supervision for post-call residents is provided. This 24 hours and up to an additional four hours must occur within the context of 80-hour weekly limit, averaged over four weeks.

VI.F.4. Clinical and Educational Work Hour Exceptions

VI.F.4.a) In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:

VI.F.4.a).(1) to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient; (Detail)

VI.F.4.a).(2) humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or, (Detail)

VI.F.4.a).(3) to attend unique educational events. (Detail)

VI.F.4.b) These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit. (Detail)

Background and Intent: This requirement is intended to provide residents with some control over their schedules by providing the flexibility to voluntarily remain beyond the scheduled responsibilities under the circumstances described above. It is important to note that a resident may remain to attend a conference, or return for a conference later in the day, only if the decision is made voluntarily. Residents must not be required to stay. Programs allowing residents to remain or return beyond the scheduled work and clinical education period must ensure that the decision to remain is initiated by the resident and that residents are not coerced. This additional time must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.

VI.F.4.c) A Review Committee may grant rotation-specific exceptions for up to 10 percent or a maximum of 88 clinical and educational work hours to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale.

The Review Committee for Surgery will not consider requests for exceptions to the 80-hour limit to the residents' work week.

VI.F.4.c).(1) In preparing a request for an exception, the program director must follow the clinical and educational work hour exception policy from the *ACGME Manual of Policies and Procedures*. (Core)

VI.F.4.c).(2) **Prior to submitting the request to the Review Committee, the program director must obtain approval from the Sponsoring Institution's GMEC and DIO.** (Core)

Background and Intent: The provision for exceptions for up to 88 hours per week has been modified to specify that exceptions may be granted for specific rotations if the program can justify the increase based on criteria specified by the Review Committee. As in the past, Review Committees may opt not to permit exceptions. The underlying philosophy for this requirement is that while it is expected that all residents should be able to train within an 80-hour work week, it is recognized that some programs may include rotations with alternate structures based on the nature of the specialty. DIO/GMEC approval is required before the request will be considered by the Review Committee.

VI.F.5. Moonlighting

VI.F.5.a) **Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program, and must not interfere with the resident's fitness for work nor compromise patient safety.** (Core)

VI.F.5.b) **Time spent by residents in internal and external moonlighting (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms) must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.** (Core)

VI.F.5.c) **PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight.** (Core)

Background and Intent: For additional clarification of the expectations related to moonlighting, please refer to the Common Program Requirement FAQs (available at http://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Common-Program-Requirements).

VI.F.6. In-House Night Float

Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off-in-seven requirements. (Core)

VI.F.6.a) Night float rotations must not exceed two months in duration, four months of night float per PGY level, and ~~15~~ 12 months for the entire program. (Core)

Background and Intent: The requirement for no more than six consecutive nights of night float was removed to provide programs with increased flexibility in scheduling.

VI.F.7. Maximum In-House On-Call Frequency

Residents must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every third night (when averaged over a four-week period). (Core)

VI.F.8. At-Home Call

VI.F.8.a) **Time spent on patient care activities by residents on at-home call must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit. The frequency of at-home call is not subject to the every-third-night limitation, but must satisfy the requirement for one day in seven free of clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks.** (Core)

VI.F.8.a).(1) **At-home call must not be so frequent or taxing as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time for each resident.** (Core)

VI.F.8.b) **Residents are permitted to return to the hospital while on at-home call to provide direct care for new or established patients. These hours of inpatient patient care must be included in the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.** (Detail)

Background and Intent: This requirement has been modified to specify that clinical work done from home when a resident is taking at-home call must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit. This change acknowledges the often significant amount of time residents devote to clinical activities when taking at-home call, and ensures that taking at-home call does not result in residents routinely working more than 80 hours per week. At-home call activities that must be counted include responding to phone calls and other forms of communication, as well as documentation, such as entering notes in an electronic health record. Activities such as reading about the next day's case, studying, or research activities do not count toward the 80-hour weekly limit.

In their evaluation of residency/fellowship programs, Review Committees will look at the overall impact of at-home call on resident/fellow rest and personal time.

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*__Core Requirements__: Statements that define structure, resource, or process elements essential to every graduate medical educational program.

†__Detail Requirements__: Statements that describe a specific structure, resource, or process, for achieving compliance with a Core Requirement. Programs and sponsoring institutions in substantial compliance with the Outcome Requirements may utilize alternative or innovative approaches to meet Core Requirements.

‡__Outcome Requirements__: Statements that specify expected measurable or observable attributes (knowledge, abilities, skills, or attitudes) of residents or fellows at key stages of their graduate medical education.

Osteopathic Recognition

For programs with or applying for Osteopathic Recognition, the Osteopathic Recognition Requirements also apply (www.acgme.org/OsteopathicRecognition).