Transition of American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) Fellowships to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

The ABOG is in the process of transferring the accreditation responsibility of its fellowships in gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, and reproductive endocrinology and infertility to the ACGME. The method by which this transfer will occur is outlined below. Each individual program must go through the application process for ACGME accreditation.

Gynecologic oncology is the first subspecialty to begin the transfer process, and the process has already begun. The second will be maternal-fetal medicine, and then reproductive endocrinology and infertility. These will follow this summer.

How will the process begin?
This process will start with the submission of a new program application to the ACGME. The application will be in two parts. Application submission deadlines have been posted on the Obstetrics and Gynecology page on the ACGME website.

Common Application (Part I):
- Application must be initiated in the ACGME Accreditation Data System (ADS) by the designated institutional official (DIO)
- DIO and program director must complete application together
- Application contains questions related to general structure of the fellowship program and the learning environment

Specialty-Specific Application (Part II):
- Contains questions related to the fellowship program
- Will be a Word document that must be uploaded prior to submission of application in ADS

Will a Site Visit be needed?
A site visit WILL NOT be performed by the ACGME if, by June 15, 2016, the:
- fellowship program is in good standing with the ABOG and has a status of Continued Accreditation
- core ACGME-accredited residency program has a status of Continued Accreditation at the time of application

A site visit WILL be performed if the:
- ABOG-accredited fellowship program has a status of Probation
• ACGME-accredited core residency has a status of Continued Accreditation with Warning or Probation
• fellowship program is not currently ABOG-accredited

If accreditation is granted by the ACGME, a site visit will be performed approximately two years after Initial Accreditation is granted.

**When is the transfer/process complete?**
Because of the number of programs that will be transferring to the ACGME in a short period of time, all programs will retain their current ABOG status until they are accredited by the ACGME or until December 31, 2017. If a program does not achieve ACGME accreditation by December 31, 2017, it will no longer be accredited.

**What are a program’s responsibilities to the ABOG after it becomes accredited by the ACGME?**
After a program’s transition, its responsibilities to the ABOG will be to:
• Register fellows
• File an Annual Report
• Pay an annual fee
• Submit changes in the program, faculty, or fellows

*Note: Please refer to the Fellowship Department’s Procedural Handbook for the details of these responsibilities.*

**Why will programs still have responsibilities to the ABOG?**
Even though the ABOG will no longer accredit programs, it does give the subspecialty certifying examinations to the fellows after they graduate. In order to do this, the ABOG must monitor fellows’ training in order to ascertain if a fellow will be eligible for these examinations after the completion of his/her training. For that same purpose, the ABOG needs to be kept current on certain program information (e.g., program director, extension of a fellow’s training time, fellow withdrawal/transfer, etc.).

**Will the transition to the ACGME affect combined maternal-fetal medicine-medical genetics and genomics (MFM-MGG) or reproductive endocrinology and infertility-medical genetics and genomics (REI-MGG) programs or proposed programs?**
No. The ABOG and the ABMGG (American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics) will continue to approve these combined programs, and there will be no change in the process of reviewing and approving these programs. New applications are welcome any time before, during, or after the transition of the other ABOG fellowship programs to the ACGME accreditation system.