ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education
in Pediatric Dermatology
Summary and Impact of New Specialty Requirements

1. Describe the scope of practice of the new specialty, as well as the process involved in
development of the requirements (e.g., date of recognition of the specialty by the ACGME
Board, involvement of specialty boards/organizations, etc.).

Pediatric dermatology encompasses principles of general and procedural (surgical and
laser) dermatology, but captures an entire specialty subset of skills and knowledge needed
to care for pediatric patients across the age spectrum from birth, to childhood, adolescence,
and young adulthood. This includes specialty care for children with birthmarks and
hamartomas, those with systemic diseases with prominent skin manifestations, genetic skin
disorders, and children under treatment for immunodeficiency syndromes or cancer who
have skin-related sequelae from therapies or bone-marrow transplantation, etc.

The ACGME Board of Directors approved a petition from the Society for Pediatric
Dermatology (SPD), with support from the American Board of Dermatology (ABD), to
accredit programs in this subspecialty at its February 2019 meeting.

The Review Committee (of which two members are pediatric dermatologists), along with
another leader in the pediatric dermatology GME community, utilized the curricular
components/requirements developed by the ABD (for decades, the ABD both approved
programs and certified graduates), in conjunction with representatives from the SPD and
the Pediatric Dermatology Fellowship Directors Group as resources, developed the
proposed Program Requirements.

2. How will the proposed requirements improve resident/fellow education?

The proposed requirements will promote, improve, and ideally optimize the clinical care
of pediatric patients with skin disease. The establishment of a formalized, accredited
ACGME pathway, using the proposed requirements, will help pediatric dermatology
fellows meet the needs of this population of patients by working to ensure there are
enough physicians with subspecialty education and training in pediatric dermatology to
provide care in a consistent, competent, and comprehensive manner.

3. How will the proposed requirements improve patient care and patient safety/quality?

The demand for pediatric dermatologists has outstripped the supply for years. The
establishment of a formalized, accredited pathway guided by these proposed Program
Requirements should improve access to pediatric dermatologists.

The public will benefit from highly educated and trained practitioners who have expertise in
areas of provision of safe patient care and medical indicated procedures, quality
improvement, transitions, and coordination of care. Designation of pediatric dermatology as
a newly accredited subspecialty will better define a pediatric dermatologist’s scope of
practice and training for designation as a pediatric dermatologist. Adhering to a focused
specialty definition, education/training pathway, and certification will establish and maintain
trust between the public and referring physicians that the title "pediatric dermatologist" has
meaning and value.

4. **How will the proposed requirements impact continuity of patient care?**

A proposed “core” requirement states that the program must include at least one continuity clinic, over the 12-month program, that focuses on the diagnosis and management of pediatric dermatologic disease. In addition, fellow participation in general pediatric dermatology clinics over a year’s time will also provide additional continuity for patients and families in addition to the required minimum of one defined continuity clinic.

5. **Will the proposed requirements necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?**

The cost of fellowship education depends on the number of fellows, and cost will vary from program to program. Financial support provided to programs will likely be variable in amount and source and may include funding from hospitals, departments, divisions, clinical revenue, and other sources to establish and maintain pediatric dermatology fellowships.

6. **How will the proposed requirements impact other accredited programs?**

The proposed requirements should have no negative impact on experiences in other specialties. Rather than competition with dermatology residency programs for educational resources (i.e., patients), fellowship programs will provide opportunities for clinical and educational collaboration and enhance the pediatric dermatology education and training of residents.