# RRC Review Process: What Do We Really Do?

Anthony C. Arnold, MD RRC for Ophthalmology





## PD Perspective

- RRC =
  - Residency Ruining Committee
  - Residency Ruling Committee
  - Residency Removal Committee
  - Residency Reprimanding Committee
  - Really Ridiculous Committee



# PD Perspective

**Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education** 

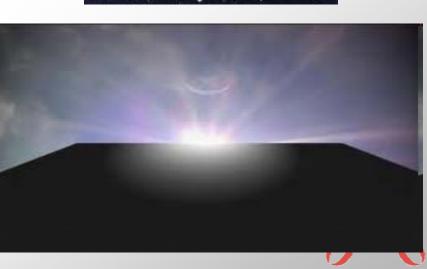
- Data sent to Them
  - Enters into





Reviewed by





# PD Perspective

#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

### Data Returns:

#### Citation #4

Resident Operative Experiences Program Requirement IV.A.5.a.11

"Residents must participate in the management (including critical care) and surgical care of adult and pediatric patients and experience should include the full spectrum of neurosurgical disorders."

The program offers an inadequate experience in five operative categories (head trauma, spinal instrumentation, peripheral nerve, pediatric brain tumor, transsphenoidal).

(Program Information Forms, pages 59 through 66)

#### REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

The Review Committee requests a progress report in which each of the following citations is addressed. This information is requested in triplicate by the date given above. As specified in the ACGME Institutional Requirements, the report should be reviewed and approved by the sponsoring institution's



- RRC 9 members (from AAO, AMA, ABO)
   + 1 resident member + Exec Director + staff
- 2 meetings/year
- Each member reviews 3-5 programs/meeting
  - Primary & secondary reviewers
- Materials received months ahead of meetings



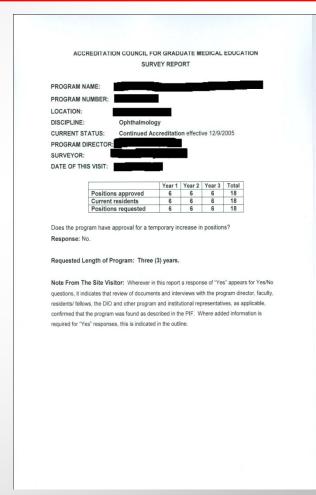
- Materials for Review:
  - Site Visitor Report (SVR)
  - Program Information Form (PIF)
  - Program History
  - Resident Survey
  - Surgical Case Log
  - Board Pass Rates
  - NO OTHER SOURCES, NO HERESAY OR ANECDOTAL DATA



#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

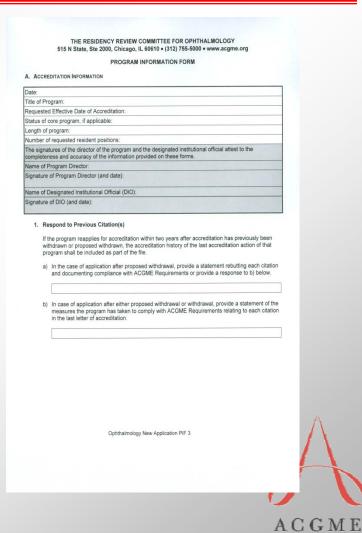
### SVR

- Directed information elicited by SV from residents and faculty
- PIF and other information is verified and clarified by SV
- SV does not make decisions regarding accreditation





- PIF
  - Detailed program information
  - Primary avenue for PD to supply view of program

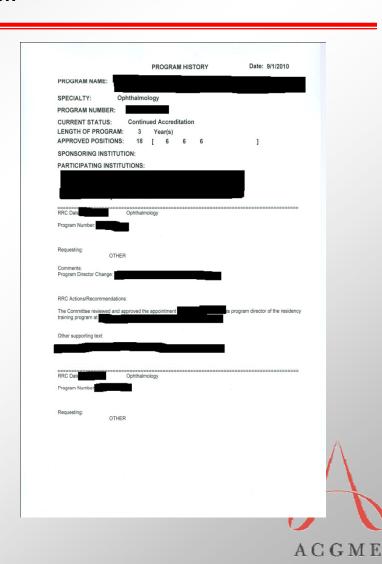


#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

- Program History
  - Previous cycle length
  - Program director turnover
  - Changes in resident complement

HISTORY SUGGESTS
I HAVE ENTERED AN
INFINITE LOOP OF
MAKING CHANGES
WITH NO HOPE OF
FINISHING.



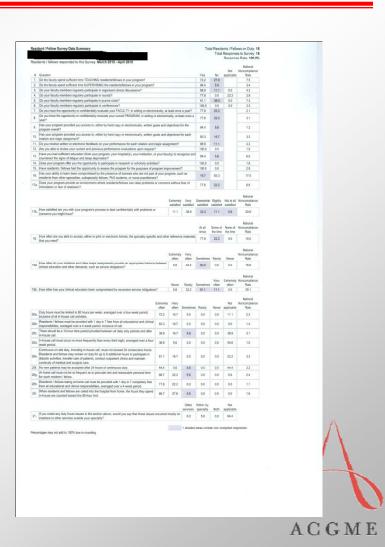


#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

- Resident Survey
  - Resident perspective, covering education, CPR, and duty hours
  - Very critical 6.1 minutes!

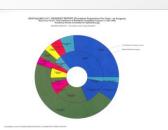
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LIE, BUT I EXPECT PLENTY OF OMISSIONS, MISDIRECTIONS, EX-AGGERATIONS...





- Case log
  - Objective
  - Comparative (to national averages and between residents in the program)
  - Statistics
    - Numbers of procedures in each category/ subcategory
    - Equality in numbers
    - Surgeon to assistant ratio





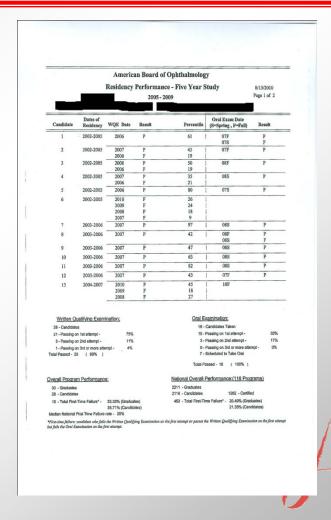
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RRC Area	RRC Precedure								_	_		-		10000	11100	1000	-	- men	Frence	z-otore	Lond.	100
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	Non-phacoemuls/fication ECCE	2,9	.1	6	63	0.0	-	4	1.6	0	4	35	-0.5	10	3	5.4	1	10	51	-0	-	
	TOTAL - Catanact	140.7	121	166	51	-0.2	.86	149	16.0	2	54	4	31,0	1.	76	156.7	127	197	53	4		229
Other Cataract	YAG capsulatomy	13.1	7	17	51	-02		15	0.0	0	0	22	-0.6		1	12.1	7	17	80		_	
	Other cataract / IQL Surgery	1.7	0	-	31	-0.6		3	1.0	.0	3	21	-0.6	-	4	2.7	0	9	49	-0	-	15
	Anterior vitrectomy	4.3	0	11	79	2.6		3	9.0	0	0		-10	-	1	43	0	11	81	-1	-	- 1
	TOTAL - Other Cataract	19.1	10	29	55	-0.5	0	20	1.0	0	3	30	-0.8	-	6	29.1	10	32	37	-1		26
Corneal Surgery	Penetraling luculopiasty	2.7	2	4	65	0.2	9	2	2.4	0	5	28	-0.7		.6	5.1	2	. 9	34	-1	-	
	Ptorygium excision	9.1	4	16	80	0.6		6	1.0	9	3	48	-03		1	10.1	4	11	77	0	_	
	Refractive surgery	8.6	0	2	62	-0.2		1	9.1	0	1	44	-0.3	-	1	0.7		2	50	0	1	7 2
	LankPRK, CK	0.1	0	1	60	-03		4	0.0	0	0	25	-0.5	-	2	0.1	0		30	-0	•	6
	Other comes	1.9	0	4	21	-0.8		4	1,4	0	4	23	-0.6		5	3.3	0		-	-1	-	
	TOTAL - Corneal Surgery	16.6	6	21	62	-0.1	. 3	17	5.0	0	12	TA	-0.9		15	19.4	6	28	31	id.		32
Strabiamus	Any muscle surgery	18.4	15	23	41	-0.4		25	7.3	0	14	31	-0.5		16	25.7	19	10				
	Other strabianus	0.1	0	1	85	-0.1		1	0.0	0	0	24	-0.6	-	16	-	-	32	29	-1	X	41
	TOTAL - Strationus	18.6	15	24	41	0.6	10	26	7.3	0	14	30	-0.5	-	16	25.9	19	32	36	-0	-	42

[PART 1]	Number of Program	ns in the	Natio	c 115	Nun	bet of	Resident	in the	Native	447									_			Т
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RRC Area	RRC Procedure										1		1		1000					-	10	
Cataract	PhacemulsReadon	143.8	50	135	0	415	64,287	-	76.0	80	57	0	412	31,306	-	213.9	79	195	59	1817	15,583	
	Non-phacoemals/fuston ECCE	3.8	4	3	.0	40	1,694		2.9	3	2	0	22	1,275		8.6	8	5	0	44	2,971	
	TOTAL - Cataract	147.6	81	120	0	415	05,963	34	72.9	81	81	0	404	32,581		220.5	78	200	60	185	10.504	
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Other Catariast	YAG capeutotomy	14.0	12	12	0	83	6.265		0.8	2	0	0	19	253	-	14.6	12	12	0	64	6,322	-
	Other cataract / IOC Surgery	2.8	3	2	0	15	1,271	1	4.0	11	2	0	174	1,796	-	6.9	11	1	0	177	3,317	-
	Anterior vitredomy	3.0	3	2	0	17	1,325	-	1,0	2	0	0	13	459	-	4.3	4	3	0	20	1,784	
	TOTAL - Other Cateract	19.0	12	17	0	49	1,165	0	5.6	12	3	0	174	2.508	-	25.4	17	21	1	195	11,373	-
Corneal Surgery	Penetrating karatoplanty	2.3	3	1	0	19	1,018		5.8	- 6	4	0	48	2.575		8.0	7	6.	0	41	3.590	
	Plengium excision	5.7	7	3	0	39	2.538		1.4	2	1	0	16	638		7.1	7	4	0	40	3.176	
	Refactive surgery	8.8	2	0	0	16	345		0.7	2	8	0	27	301		1.4	3	0	0	30	646	
	Lask/PRK CK	3.8	15	8	0	144	5.688		2.1	7	8	0	126	919		5.8	17	0	0	156	2.607	-
	Other comes	4.0	4	5	0	14	1,771		43	-0	2	0.	40	1,935		8.5	1	6	0	44	3,700	-
	TOTAL - Corneal Surgery	16.5	18	12	0	153	7,163	2	14.2	14	10	0	131	6,368	-	30.7	24	25	0	101	13,726	7
Stratiumus	Any muscle surgery	24.8	17	20	0	119	11,067		15.6	19	10	0	119	6,952		40.3	27	33	0	171	18,019	
	Other strationsus	8.3	2	0	0	47	194		0.3	,	0	0	13	155		0.7	3	0	0	47	211	
	TOTAL - Stublenus	25.1	17	20	0	119	11,223	10	15.9	19	10	0	119	7,107		41.0	27	23	0	172	18.330	
				_			-				_		-					_	_			=
Glascoma	Filtering procedures	6.0	5	5	0	37	2,695		5.8	7	4	0	47	2,594		11.8	9	9	0	55	5,280	
	Shurring procedures	4.5	4	3	1	26	1,983		4.5	5	3	0	31	2.031	-	1.1	7	1	0	38	4,324	
	Other glautoma	1.8	3.	1	8	22	862	-	1.2	3	1	0	24	774		3.7	5	2	0	31	1,637	-
	TOTAL - Gleucome	12.4	7	11	0	41	5.551	-5	12.1	11	9	0	54	5.399		24.5	14	22	5	77	10.950	



- Board Pass Rates
  - Number of Graduates who take the WQE (80%)
  - First time pass rates for WQE & Oral Exam (60%)







#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

- Program Requirements
  - Document specialtyspecific programmatic standards
  - Citations reflect lack of compliance
  - Requirements periodically modified
  - PD Guide to CPR: required reading!

#### ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Ophthalmology

#### Common Program Requirements are in BOLD

Effective: July 1, 2007

#### Introduction

#### A. Definition and Scope of the Specialty

Residency training programs in ophthalmology should provide a stable, well-coordinated, and progressive educational experience in the entire spectrum of ophthalmic diseases and ocular surgery. Residents in ophthalmology should develop diagnostic, therapeutic, and manual skills, as well as sound judgment in the application of such skills. Each resident must have major technical and patient care responsibilities in order to provide an adequate base for a comprehensive ophthalmic practice. That base must include: optics, visual physiology, and corrections of refractive errors; retina, vitreous, and uvea; neuro-ophthalmology; pediatric ophthalmicopy and strabismus; external disease and cornea; glaucoma, cataract, and anterior segment; oculoplastic surgery and orbital diseases; and ophthalmic pathology.

#### B. Duration and Scope of Education

- The length of training in ophthalmology must be at least 36 calendar months, including appropriate short periods for vacation, special assignments, or exceptional individual circumstances approved by the program director.
- Any program that extends the length of training beyond 36 calendar months must present an educational rationale that is consonant with the program requirements and the objectives for residency training. Approval for an extended curriculum must be obtained prior to implementation and at each subsequent review. Prior to entry in the program, each resident must be notified in writing of the required curriculum length.
- 3. The length of time of residency training for a particular resident may be extended by the program director if that resident needs additional training. If the extension is six months or leas, the program director must notify the residency Review Committee of the extension, and must describe the proposed curriculum for that resident and the measures taken to minimize any impact on other residents. Any changes in rotation schedules should be included in



#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

- Operative Minimum Numbers
  - Programs must meet minimums
  - Overall borderline numbers may raise a concern
  - Individuals need not meet every minimum (yet)

#### **Ophthalmology Resident Operative Minimum Requirements**

Procedure	Current Minimum Requirement (*Surgeon) (**Surgeon and Assistant)
Cataract*	86
Strabismus*	10
Corneal Surgery*	3
Refractive	6
Surgery**	
Glaucoma *	5
Glaucoma Laser*	9
Retina/Vitreous**	10
Other Retinal*	25
Oculoplastics/Orbit*	28
Globe Trauma*	4

<sup>\*</sup> Operative minimums per class of procedures are now established only for cases where the resident is the **primary surgeon**.

Residents are expected to input surgeries on which they are the first assistant as well as cases on which they are the primary surgeon. This is necessary for the program to show a progressive graduated and broad surgical experience. At least 364 total procedures (surgeon + assistant) should be completed at the end of the residency.



<sup>\*\*</sup> Operative minimums per class of procedures are established for cases where the resident is either the primary surgeon and/or the assistant.

- Primary & secondary reviewers present summaries and recommendations
- Entire committee discusses
- Consensus recommendations made
- Details and review by Chair + Exec Director
- Letters of Notification prepared



### Letter of Notification

#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

- Outcomes:
  - Continued accreditation (cycle up to 5 years)
    - Progress report needed
    - Commendations
  - Probation
  - Withdrawal of accreditation
  - All adverse actions are proposed by RRC

#### Sample of Notification Letter for Continued Accreditation Jane Doe M.D. Department of Neurosurgery Jasper University Hospital Metropolis, IL 60606 The Residency Review Committee for Neurological Surgery, functioning in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), has reviewed the information submitted regarding the following program: Neurological Surgery Jasper University Program Metropolis II Program Number: 1234567890 Based on all of the information available to it at the time of its recent meeting the Review Committee accredited the program as follows: Status: Continued Accreditation Length of Training: 6 Maximum Number of Residents: 9 Residents Per Level: 2.00 - 1.00 - 2.00 - 1.00 - 2.00 - 1.00 Approximate Date of Next Survey: 09/2009 FS Cycle Length: 2.0 Year(s) Progress Report Due: 01/01/2008 Approximate Date for Internal Review: 10/01/2008 AREAS NOT IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE (CITATIONS) The Review Committee cited the following areas as not in substantial compliance with the ACGME requirements for Graduate Medical Education Program Director Qualifications Program Requirement II.A.3. "Qualifications of the program director must include a requisite specialty expertise and documented educational and administrative experience The credentials reported for Dr. Doe, program director, show no recent academic participation in academic neurosurgery prior to appointment to the University. In addition, Dr. Smith, another key faculty member reports one



### Citations

#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

# (Lack of Substantial Compliance with PR)

Evaluation/Program/Annual Written Confidential Evaluation by Residents and Faculty Common Program Requirement: V.C.1.d).(1)
Residents and faculty must have the opportunity to evaluate the program confidentially and in writing at least annually. Citation code: 5.C

The information provided on page 62 of the PIF regarding annual confidential evaluation of the program could not be verified by the site visitor. Upon further investigation, the site visitor and DIO acknowledged that confidential evaluation had not been performed annually by the residents and faculty.

#### Source

Program Requirement number: V.C.1.d).(1) SVR page(s): 4,12,22,49

PIF page(s): 62 (inaccurately noted)

Resident Survey:

Case Logs:

Interim Correspondence:

Is this a repeat citation?

( ) Yes ( x ) No



### Program Strengths & Notable Practices

#### **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

#### PROGRAM STRENGTHS

The Review Committee noted the following strengths or areas of substantial improvement since the last review:

The Committee commends the program for its efforts to comply with the competency initiative, and the longevity of the program director and his leadership to guide residents in scholarly activities.

It is the policy of the ACGME and of the Review Committee that each time an action is taken regarding the accreditation status of a program, the residents and applicants (those invited for interviews) must be notified. This office must be notified of any major changes in the organization of the program. When corresponding with this office, please identify the program by name and number as indicated above. Changes in participating institutions and changes in leadership must be reported to the Review Committee using the ACGME Accreditation Data System.

Sincerely yours,

Patrice B. Levenber Phis

Patricia B. Levenberg, Ph.D. Executive Director Residency Review Committee for Ophthalmology



# Followup

- Response to RRC (if requested)
  - Specific red flags: duty hours, etc
- Response to GMEC (Internal Review)
- Submission of citations to Institution to support improvement efforts
- Strengths & Recommendations may support future activities



# Summary

- RRC is NOT a black hole into which data is lost
- RRC members are dedicated leaders, with field experience (all are current or prior PD's & GME leaders, from AAO, AMA, ABO)
- Multisource data is reviewed by multiple reviewers and vetted by group
- Citations are specific to PR
- Goal is to assess compliance, improve programs, and protect the public

