

**ACGME Program Requirements for  
Graduate Medical Education  
in Neurology**

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## Contents

Introduction.....	3
Int.A. Preamble.....	3
Int.B. Definition of Specialty.....	3
Int.C. Length of Educational Program .....	4
I. Oversight.....	4
I.A. Sponsoring Institution .....	4
I.B. Participating Sites .....	4
I.C. Recruitment .....	5
I.D. Resources.....	6
I.E. Other Learners and Other Care Providers .....	7
II. Personnel .....	7
II.A. Program Director.....	7
II.B. Faculty .....	12
II.C. Program Coordinator .....	15
II.D. Other Program Personnel.....	16
III. Resident Appointments.....	16
III.A. Eligibility Requirements.....	16
III.B. Number of Residents .....	18
III.C. Resident Transfers.....	18
IV. Educational Program .....	18
IV.A. Curriculum Components .....	18
IV.B. ACGME Competencies.....	20
IV.C. Curriculum Organization and Resident Experiences.....	25
IV.D. Scholarship.....	27
V. Evaluation.....	29
V.A. Resident Evaluation .....	29
V.B. Faculty Evaluation.....	33
V.C. Program Evaluation and Improvement .....	34
VI. The Learning and Working Environment .....	38
VI.A. Patient Safety, Quality Improvement, Supervision, and Accountability.....	39
VI.B. Professionalism.....	45
VI.C. Well-Being.....	46
VI.D. Fatigue Mitigation.....	50
VI.E. Clinical Responsibilities, Teamwork, and Transitions of Care.....	50
VI.F. Clinical Experience and Education .....	51



52 **Int.C. Length of Educational Program**

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54 Int.C.1. A complete neurology residency requires 48 months of education.  
55 Approved residencies in neurology must provide at least 36 months of  
56 this education. <sup>(Core)</sup>

57  
58 The program meeting these requirements may be of two types:

59  
60 Int.C.1.a) programs that provide four years of residency education, including  
61 a broad clinical experience in general internal medicine; or, <sup>(Core)</sup>

62  
63 Int.C.1.b) programs that provide three years of neurology education,  
64 preceded by 12 months of broad clinical experience in general  
65 internal medicine. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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67 **I. Oversight**

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69 **I.A. Sponsoring Institution**

70  
71 *The Sponsoring Institution is the organization or entity that assumes the*  
72 *ultimate financial and academic responsibility for a program of graduate*  
73 *medical education, consistent with the ACGME Institutional Requirements.*

74  
75 *When the Sponsoring Institution is not a rotation site for the program, the*  
76 *most commonly utilized site of clinical activity for the program is the*  
77 *primary clinical site.*

78  

**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.**

79  
80 **I.A.1. The program must be sponsored by one ACGME-accredited**  
81 **Sponsoring Institution.** <sup>(Core)\*</sup>

82  
83 **I.B. Participating Sites**  
84  
85 *A participating site is an organization providing educational experiences or*  
86 *educational assignments/rotations for residents.*

87  
88 **I.B.1. The program, with approval of its Sponsoring Institution, must**  
89 **designate a primary clinical site.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

90  
91 **I.B.2. There must be a program letter of agreement (PLA) between the**  
92 **program and each participating site that governs the relationship**

- 93 between the program and the participating site providing a required  
94 assignment. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
95  
96 **I.B.2.a) The PLA must:**  
97  
98 **I.B.2.a).(1) be renewed at least every 10 years; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
99  
100 **I.B.2.a).(2) be approved by the designated institutional official**  
101 **(DIO). <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
102  
103 **I.B.3. The program must monitor the clinical learning and working**  
104 **environment at all participating sites. <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
105  
106 **I.B.3.a) At each participating site there must be one faculty member,**  
107 **designated by the program director as the site director, who**  
108 **is accountable for resident education at that site, in**  
109 **collaboration with the program director. <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
110

**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**

- 111  
112 **I.B.4. The program director must submit any additions or deletions of**  
113 **participating sites routinely providing an educational experience,**  
114 **required for all residents, of one month full time equivalent (FTE) or**  
115 **more through the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS). <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
116  
117 **I.B.4.a) A site providing six months or more of required education must be**  
118 **approved by the Review Committee before residents rotate there.**  
119 **<sup>(Core)</sup>**  
120  
121 **I.C. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must engage in**  
122 **practices that focus on mission-driven, ongoing, systematic recruitment**  
123 **and retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce of residents, fellows (if**

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125  
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present), faculty members, senior administrative staff members, and other relevant members of its academic community. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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).

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**I.D. Resources**

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

**I.D.1.a) There must be inpatient and outpatient facilities, examining areas, conference rooms, research laboratories, and office space for faculty members and residents.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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:** <sup>(Core)</sup>

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

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

**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.

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

**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).**

- 153  
154 **I.D.2.d) security and safety measures appropriate to the participating**  
155 **site; and, (Core)**  
156
- 157 **I.D.2.e) accommodations for residents with disabilities consistent**  
158 **with the Sponsoring Institution's policy. (Core)**  
159
- 160 **I.D.3. Residents must have ready access to specialty-specific and other**  
161 **appropriate reference material in print or electronic format. This**  
162 **must include access to electronic medical literature databases with**  
163 **full text capabilities. (Core)**  
164
- 165 **I.D.4. The program's educational and clinical resources must be adequate**  
166 **to support the number of residents appointed to the program. (Core)**  
167
- 168 **I.D.4.a) The patient population must reflect the full spectrum of**  
169 **neurological disorders across the lifespan, to include**  
170 **understanding of normal neural development and cognitive aging,**  
171 **and including patients seen in outpatient, inpatient, emergency,**  
172 **and intensive care settings. (Core)**  
173
- 174 **I.E. The presence of other learners and other care providers, including, but not**  
175 **limited to, residents from other programs, subspecialty fellows, and**  
176 **advanced practice providers, must enrich the appointed residents'**  
177 **education. (Core)**  
178
- 179 **I.E.1. The program must report circumstances when the presence of other**  
180 **learners has interfered with the residents' education to the DIO and**  
181 **Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). (Core)**  
182

**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.**

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184 **II. Personnel**  
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- 186 **II.A. Program Director**  
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- 188 **II.A.1. There must be one faculty member appointed as program director**  
189 **with authority and accountability for the overall program, including**  
190 **compliance with all applicable program requirements. (Core)**  
191
- 192 **II.A.1.a) The Sponsoring Institution's GMEC must approve a change in**  
193 **program director. (Core)**  
194

195 **II.A.1.b) Final approval of the program director resides with the**  
 196 **Review Committee.** *(Core)*  
 197

**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.**

198  
 199 **II.A.1.c) The program must demonstrate retention of the program**  
 200 **director for a length of time adequate to maintain continuity**  
 201 **of leadership and program stability.** *(Core)*  
 202

**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.**

203  
 204 **II.A.2. At a minimum, the program director must be provided with the**  
 205 **salary support required to devote 35 percent FTE of non-clinical**  
 206 **time to the administration of the program.** Additional support for the  
 207 program director and the associate program director(s) must be provided  
 208 based on program size as follows: *(Core)*  
 209

Number of approved resident positions	Minimum program director FTE	Minimum aggregate program director/associate program director FTE
9-15	.35	0.40
16-20	.35	0.45
21-25	.35	0.50
26-30	.35	0.55
31-35	.35	0.60
36-40	.35	0.65
More than 40	.35	1.00

210  
 211 **II.A.2.a) If the FTE is shared with an associate program director, the**  
 212 **associate program director must report directly to the program**  
 213 **director.** *(Core)*  
 214

**Background and Intent: Thirty-five percent FTE is defined as 1.75 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.

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**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.**

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

**II.A.3.b).(1) Only ABPN and AOBNP certification are considered acceptable. (Core)**

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

**II.A.3.d) must include ongoing clinical activity. (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.**

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**II.A.3.e) The program director must be a member of the staff at the primary clinical site. (Core)**

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

244 The program director must have responsibility, authority, and  
245 accountability for: administration and operations; teaching and  
246 scholarly activity; resident recruitment and selection, evaluation,  
247 and promotion of residents, and disciplinary action; supervision of  
248 residents; and resident education in the context of patient care. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
249

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

251  
252 **II.A.4.a).(1)** be a role model of professionalism; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
253

**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.

254  
255 **II.A.4.a).(2)** design and conduct the program in a fashion  
256 consistent with the needs of the community, the  
257 mission(s) of the Sponsoring Institution, and the  
258 mission(s) of the program; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
259

**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.

260  
261 **II.A.4.a).(3)** administer and maintain a learning environment  
262 conducive to educating the residents in each of the  
263 ACGME Competency domains; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
264

**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.

265  
266 **II.A.4.a).(4)** develop and oversee a process to evaluate candidates  
267 prior to approval as program faculty members for  
268 participation in the residency program education and  
269 at least annually thereafter, as outlined in V.B.; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
270

- 271 **II.A.4.a).(5)** have the authority to approve program faculty  
272 members for participation in the residency program  
273 education at all sites; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
274
- 275 **II.A.4.a).(6)** have the authority to remove program faculty  
276 members from participation in the residency program  
277 education at all sites; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
278
- 279 **II.A.4.a).(7)** have the authority to remove residents from  
280 supervising interactions and/or learning environments  
281 that do not meet the standards of the program; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
282

**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.**

- 283
- 284 **II.A.4.a).(8)** submit accurate and complete information required  
285 and requested by the DIO, GMEC, and ACGME; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
286
- 287 **II.A.4.a).(9)** provide applicants who are offered an interview with  
288 information related to the applicant's eligibility for the  
289 relevant specialty board examination(s); <sup>(Core)</sup>  
290
- 291 **II.A.4.a).(10)** provide a learning and working environment in which  
292 residents have the opportunity to raise concerns and  
293 provide feedback in a confidential manner as  
294 appropriate, without fear of intimidation or retaliation;  
295 <sup>(Core)</sup>  
296
- 297 **II.A.4.a).(11)** ensure the program's compliance with the Sponsoring  
298 Institution's policies and procedures related to  
299 grievances and due process; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
300
- 301 **II.A.4.a).(12)** ensure the program's compliance with the Sponsoring  
302 Institution's policies and procedures for due process  
303 when action is taken to suspend or dismiss, not to  
304 promote, or not to renew the appointment of a  
305 resident; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
306

**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.**

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- 308 **II.A.4.a).(13)** ensure the program’s compliance with the Sponsoring  
 309 Institution’s policies and procedures on employment  
 310 and non-discrimination; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 311  
 312 **II.A.4.a).(13).(a)** Residents must not be required to sign a non-  
 313 competition guarantee or restrictive covenant.  
 314 <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 315  
 316 **II.A.4.a).(14)** document verification of program completion for all  
 317 graduating residents within 30 days; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 318  
 319 **II.A.4.a).(15)** provide verification of an individual resident’s  
 320 completion upon the resident’s request, within 30  
 321 days; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 322

**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.**

- 323  
 324 **II.A.4.a).(16)** obtain review and approval of the Sponsoring  
 325 Institution’s DIO before submitting information or  
 326 requests to the ACGME, as required in the Institutional  
 327 Requirements and outlined in the ACGME Program  
 328 Director’s Guide to the Common Program  
 329 Requirements. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 330

331 **II.B. Faculty**

332  
 333 *Faculty members are a foundational element of graduate medical education*  
 334 *– faculty members teach residents how to care for patients. Faculty*  
 335 *members provide an important bridge allowing residents to grow and*  
 336 *become practice-ready, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality of*  
 337 *care. They are role models for future generations of physicians by*  
 338 *demonstrating compassion, commitment to excellence in teaching and*  
 339 *patient care, professionalism, and a dedication to lifelong learning. Faculty*  
 340 *members experience the pride and joy of fostering the growth and*  
 341 *development of future colleagues. The care they provide is enhanced by*  
 342 *the opportunity to teach. By employing a scholarly approach to patient*  
 343 *care, faculty members, through the graduate medical education system,*  
 344 *improve the health of the individual and the population.*

345  
 346 *Faculty members ensure that patients receive the level of care expected*  
 347 *from a specialist in the field. They recognize and respond to the needs of*  
 348 *the patients, residents, community, and institution. Faculty members*  
 349 *provide appropriate levels of supervision to promote patient safety. Faculty*  
 350 *members create an effective learning environment by acting in a*  
 351 *professional manner and attending to the well-being of the residents and*  
 352 *themselves.*

353

**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.**

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**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)**

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**II.B.1.a) A total faculty member to approved resident complement ratio of one to one must be maintained. The program director may be counted as one of the faculty members in determining the ratio. (Core)**

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**II.B.1.b) Faculty members or consultants with special expertise in all the disciplines related to neurology, including behavioral neurology, child neurology, clinical neurophysiology, epilepsy, headache, infectious disease, movement disorders, neurocritical care, neurogenetics, neuroimaging, neuroimmunology, neurology of aging, neuromuscular medicine, neuro-oncology, neurotology, neuro-ophthalmology, neuropathology, pain management, psychiatry, sleep disorders, and vascular neurology, should be available to neurology residents. (Detail)**

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

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

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

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380

**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.**

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

382

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

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

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

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

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**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.

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- II.B.2.g).(1)** as educators; <sup>(Core)</sup>
- II.B.2.g).(2)** in quality improvement and patient safety; <sup>(Core)</sup>
- II.B.2.g).(3)** in fostering their own and their residents' well-being; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>
- II.B.2.g).(4)** in patient care based on their practice-based learning and improvement efforts. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

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- II.B.3. Faculty Qualifications**
- II.B.3.a)** Faculty members must have appropriate qualifications in their field and hold appropriate institutional appointments. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- II.B.3.b)** Physician faculty members must:
- II.B.3.b).(1)** have current certification in the specialty by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry, or possess qualifications judged acceptable to the Review Committee. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- II.B.3.c)** Any non-physician faculty members who participate in residency program education must be approved by the program director. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

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**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.**

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

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

**II.B.4.c)** The core faculty must include a program director, a child neurologist, and a minimum of three full-time neurology faculty members who provide clinical service and teaching and who devote sufficient time to the program to ensure basic and clinical education for residents. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**II.C. Program Coordinator**

**II.C.1. There must be a program coordinator.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**II.C.2. At a minimum, the program coordinator must be supported at 50 percent FTE for the administration of the program.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**II.C.2.a)** Additional support must be provided based on program size as follows: <sup>(Core)</sup>

Number of approved resident positions	Minimum FTE coordinator(s) required
1-6	0.5 FTE
7-15	0.75 FTE
16-24	1.0 FTE
25-33	1.25 FTE
34-42	1.5 FTE
43-51	1.75 FTE

52 or more

2.0 FTE

459

**Background and Intent: Fifty percent FTE is defined as two-and-a-half (2.5) 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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461

**II.D. Other Program Personnel**

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**The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must jointly ensure the availability of necessary personnel for the effective administration of the program. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

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465

466

**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.**

467

468

**III. Resident Appointments**

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**III.A. Eligibility Requirements**

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

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474

475

**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**

476

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478



- 479 **American Osteopathic Association Commission on**  
 480 **Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOACOCA); or,** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 481  
 482 **III.A.1.b) graduation from a medical school outside of the United**  
 483 **States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional**  
 484 **qualifications:** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 485  
 486 **III.A.1.b).(1) holding a currently valid certificate from the**  
 487 **Educational Commission for Foreign Medical**  
 488 **Graduates (ECFMG) prior to appointment; or,** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 489  
 490 **III.A.1.b).(2) holding a full and unrestricted license to practice**  
 491 **medicine in the United States licensing jurisdiction in**  
 492 **which the ACGME-accredited program is located.** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 493  
 494 **III.A.2. All prerequisite post-graduate clinical education required for initial**  
 495 **entry or transfer into ACGME-accredited residency programs must**  
 496 **be completed in ACGME-accredited residency programs, AOA-**  
 497 **approved residency programs, Royal College of Physicians and**  
 498 **Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)-accredited or College of Family**  
 499 **Physicians of Canada (CFPC)-accredited residency programs**  
 500 **located in Canada, or in residency programs with ACGME**  
 501 **International (ACGME-I) Advanced Specialty Accreditation.** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 502  
 503 **III.A.2.a) Residency programs must receive verification of each**  
 504 **resident's level of competency in the required clinical field**  
 505 **using ACGME, CanMEDS, or ACGME-I Milestones evaluations**  
 506 **from the prior training program upon matriculation.** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 507  
 508 **III.A.2.b) Residents entering a program that offers the 36-month format**  
 509 **must have completed a year of graduate medical education that**  
 510 **satisfies III.A.2. and includes at least one of the following:**  
 511  
 512 **III.A.2.b).(1) eight months in internal medicine with primary**  
 513 **responsibility in patient care; or,** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 514  
 515 **III.A.2.b).(2) six months in internal medicine with primary responsibility**  
 516 **in patient care and a period of at least two months**  
 517 **comprising one or more months of emergency medicine,**  
 518 **family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics.** <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 519  
 520 **III.A.2.b).(2).(a) Residents may spend up to four months in**  
 521 **neurology during this year.** <sup>(Detail)</sup>  
 522

**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.**

523

524 **III.A.3.** A physician who has completed a residency program that was not  
525 accredited by ACGME, AOA, RCPSC, CFPC, or ACGME-I (with  
526 Advanced Specialty Accreditation) may enter an ACGME-accredited  
527 residency program in the same specialty at the PGY-1 level and, at  
528 the discretion of the program director of the ACGME-accredited  
529 program and with approval by the GMEC, may be advanced to the  
530 PGY-2 level based on ACGME Milestones evaluations at the ACGME-  
531 accredited program. This provision applies only to entry into  
532 residency in those specialties for which an initial clinical year is not  
533 required for entry. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
534

535 **III.B.** The program director must not appoint more residents than approved by  
536 the Review Committee. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
537

538 **III.B.1.** All complement increases must be approved by the Review  
539 Committee. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
540

541 **III.C.** Resident Transfers

542  
543 The program must obtain verification of previous educational experiences  
544 and a summative competency-based performance evaluation prior to  
545 acceptance of a transferring resident, and Milestones evaluations upon  
546 matriculation. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
547

548 **III.C.1.** The program director must also obtain a written or electronic summative,  
549 competency-based performance evaluation of the PGY-1 for a resident  
550 entering the program as a PGY-2 and who completed the PGY-1 in a  
551 different program. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
552

553 **IV.** Educational Program

554  
555 *The ACGME accreditation system is designed to encourage excellence and*  
556 *innovation in graduate medical education regardless of the organizational*  
557 *affiliation, size, or location of the program.*  
558

559 *The educational program must support the development of knowledgeable, skillful*  
560 *physicians who provide compassionate care.*  
561

562 *In addition, the program is expected to define its specific program aims consistent*  
563 *with the overall mission of its Sponsoring Institution, the needs of the community*  
564 *it serves and that its graduates will serve, and the distinctive capabilities of*  
565 *physicians it intends to graduate. While programs must demonstrate substantial*  
566 *compliance with the Common and specialty-specific Program Requirements, it is*  
567 *recognized that within this framework, programs may place different emphasis on*  
568 *research, leadership, public health, etc. It is expected that the program aims will*  
569 *reflect the nuanced program-specific goals for it and its graduates; for example, it*  
570 *is expected that a program aiming to prepare physician-scientists will have a*  
571 *different curriculum from one focusing on community health.*  
572

573 **IV.A.** The curriculum must contain the following educational components: <sup>(Core)</sup>  
574

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

578  
579 **IV.A.1.a)** The program's aims must be made available to program  
580 applicants, residents, and faculty members. <sup>(Core)</sup>

581  
582 **IV.A.2.** competency-based goals and objectives for each educational  
583 experience designed to promote progress on a trajectory to  
584 autonomous practice. These must be distributed, reviewed, and  
585 available to residents and faculty members; <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

587  
588 **IV.A.3.** delineation of resident responsibilities for patient care, progressive  
589 responsibility for patient management, and graded supervision; <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

591  
592 **IV.A.4.** a broad range of structured didactic activities; <sup>(Core)</sup>

593  
594 **IV.A.4.a)** Residents must be provided with protected time to participate  
595 in core didactic activities. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

597  
598 **IV.A.5.** advancement of residents' knowledge of ethical principles  
599 foundational to medical professionalism; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>

600  
601 **IV.A.6.** advancement in the residents' knowledge of the basic principles of  
602 scientific inquiry, including how research is designed, conducted,  
603 evaluated, explained to patients, and applied to patient care. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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**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.**

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**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.**

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**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.**

- 645  
646 **IV.B.1.b).(1)** **Residents must be able to provide patient care that is**  
647 **compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the**  
648 **treatment of health problems and the promotion of**  
649 **health.** (Core)  
650  
651 **IV.B.1.b).(1).(a)** Residents must demonstrate competence in the  
652 assessment and management of outpatients and  
653 inpatients with neurological disorders across the  
654 lifespan, including those who require emergency  
655 and intensive care. (Core)  
656  
657 **IV.B.1.b).(2)** **Residents must be able to perform all medical,**  
658 **diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered**  
659 **essential for the area of practice.** (Core)  
660  
661 **IV.B.1.c)** **Medical Knowledge**  
662  
663 **Residents must demonstrate knowledge of established and**  
664 **evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-**  
665 **behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this**  
666 **knowledge to patient care.** (Core)  
667  
668 **IV.B.1.c).(1)** Residents must demonstrate competence in their  
669 understanding of major developments in the clinical  
670 sciences relating to neurology.  
671 (Core)  
672  
673 **IV.B.1.c).(2)** Residents must demonstrate competence in their  
674 knowledge of:  
675  
676 **IV.B.1.c).(2).(a)** aspects of neurology, including behavioral  
677 neurology, child neurology, clinical  
678 neurophysiology, epilepsy, headache, infectious  
679 disease, movement disorders, neurocritical care,  
680 neurogenetics, neuroimaging, neuroimmunology,  
681 neurology of aging, neuromuscular medicine,  
682 neuro-oncology, neurotology, neuro-ophthalmology,

683		neuropathology, pain management, sleep
684		disorders, and vascular neurology; <sup>(Core)</sup>
685		
686	IV.B.1.c).(2).(b)	bioethics; <sup>(Core)</sup>
687		
688	IV.B.1.c).(2).(c)	palliative care, including adequate pain relief as
689		well as psychosocial support and counseling for
690		patients and families; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>
691		
692	IV.B.1.c).(2).(d)	the principles of psychopathology, psychiatric
693		diagnosis, and therapy, and the indications for and
694		complications of drugs used in psychiatry. <sup>(Core)</sup>
695		
696	<b>IV.B.1.d)</b>	<b>Practice-based Learning and Improvement</b>
697		
698		<b>Residents must demonstrate the ability to investigate and</b>
699		<b>evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate</b>
700		<b>scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care</b>
701		<b>based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning. <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
702		

**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.**

703		
704	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1)</b>	<b>Residents must demonstrate competence in:</b>
705		
706	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(a)</b>	<b>identifying strengths, deficiencies, and limits in</b>
707		<b>one’s knowledge and expertise; <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
708		
709	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(b)</b>	<b>setting learning and improvement goals; <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
710		
711	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(c)</b>	<b>identifying and performing appropriate learning</b>
712		<b>activities; <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
713		
714	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(d)</b>	<b>systematically analyzing practice using quality</b>
715		<b>improvement methods, and implementing</b>
716		<b>changes with the goal of practice improvement;</b>
717		<sup>(Core)</sup>
718		
719	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(e)</b>	<b>incorporating feedback and formative</b>
720		<b>evaluation into daily practice; <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
721		
722	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(f)</b>	<b>locating, appraising, and assimilating evidence</b>
723		<b>from scientific studies related to their patients’</b>
724		<b>health problems; and, <sup>(Core)</sup></b>

725		
726	<b>IV.B.1.d).(1).(g)</b>	<b>using information technology to optimize learning.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
727		
728		
729	<b>IV.B.1.e)</b>	<b>Interpersonal and Communication Skills</b>
730		
731		<b>Residents must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
732		
733		
734		
735		
736	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1)</b>	<b>Residents must demonstrate competence in:</b>
737		
738	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(a)</b>	<b>communicating effectively with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds;</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
739		
740		
741		
742		
743	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(b)</b>	<b>communicating effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and health-related agencies;</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
744		
745		
746		
747	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(c)</b>	<b>working effectively as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group;</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
748		
749		
750		
751	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(d)</b>	<b>educating patients, families, students, residents, and other health professionals;</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
752		
753		
754	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(e)</b>	<b>acting in a consultative role to other physicians and health professionals; and,</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
755		
756		
757	<b>IV.B.1.e).(1).(f)</b>	<b>maintaining comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records, if applicable.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
758		
759		
760	<b>IV.B.1.e).(2)</b>	<b>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.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
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**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.**

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766	<b>IV.B.1.f)</b>	<b>Systems-based Practice</b>

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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. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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; <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.**

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IV.B.1.f).(1).(b)

coordinating patient care across the health care continuum and beyond as relevant to their clinical specialty; <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.**

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IV.B.1.f).(1).(c)

advocating for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems; <sup>(Core)</sup>

IV.B.1.f).(1).(d)

working in interprofessional teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality; <sup>(Core)</sup>

IV.B.1.f).(1).(e)

participating in identifying system errors and implementing potential systems solutions; <sup>(Core)</sup>

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; <sup>(Core)</sup>

IV.B.1.f).(1).(g)

understanding health care finances and its impact on individual patients' health decisions; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>

IV.B.1.f).(1).(h)

understanding the implications and ramifications of genetic testing. <sup>(Core)</sup>

IV.B.1.f).(2)

Residents must learn to advocate for patients within the health care system to achieve the patient's and

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809



810 family's care goals, including, when appropriate, end-  
811 of-life goals. <sup>(Core)</sup>

812  
813 **IV.C. Curriculum Organization and Resident Experiences**

814  
815 **IV.C.1. The curriculum must be structured to optimize resident educational**  
816 **experiences, the length of these experiences, and supervisory**  
817 **continuity.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

818  
819 IV.C.1.a) Assignment of rotations must be structured to minimize the  
820 frequency of rotational transitions, and rotations must be of  
821 sufficient length to provide a quality educational experience,  
822 defined by continuity of patient care, ongoing supervision,  
823 longitudinal relationships with faculty members, and high-quality  
824 assessment and feedback. <sup>(Core)</sup>

825  
826 IV.C.1.b) Clinical experiences should be structured to facilitate learning in a  
827 manner that allows the residents to function as part of an effective  
828 health care team that works together longitudinally with shared  
829 goals of patient safety and quality improvement. <sup>(Core)</sup>

830

**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.**

831  
832 **IV.C.2. The program must provide instruction and experience in pain**  
833 **management if applicable for the specialty, including recognition of**  
834 **the signs of addiction.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

835  
836 IV.C.3. The educational program must include patient care, teaching, and  
837 research. <sup>(Core)</sup>

838  
839 IV.C.3.a) Patient care activities must include outpatient, consultative, and  
840 primary responsibility for management of inpatients with  
841 neurologic disorders. <sup>(Core)</sup>

842  
843 IV.C.4. In programs offering the 48-month format, the first year of the program  
844 must provide broad clinical experience in general internal medicine and  
845 include at least one of the following: <sup>(Core)</sup>

846  
847 IV.C.4.a) eight months in internal medicine with primary responsibility in  
848 patient care, or <sup>(Core)</sup>

849  
850 IV.C.4.b) six months in internal medicine with primary responsibility in  
851 patient care, and a period of at least two months comprising one  
852 or more months of pediatrics, emergency medicine, internal  
853 medicine, or family medicine. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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855	IV.C.5.	Resident education in neurology during the first year must not exceed
856		four months. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
857		
858	IV.C.6.	Residents must have:
859		
860	IV.C.6.a)	a minimum of 18 months (FTE) of clinical adult neurology; <sup>(Core)</sup>
861		
862	IV.C.6.a).(1)	This must include at least six months of inpatient
863		experience in adult neurology. <sup>(Core)</sup>
864		
865	IV.C.6.a).(2)	This must include at least six months of outpatient
866		experience in clinical adult neurology. <sup>(Core)</sup>
867		
868	IV.C.6.a).(2).(a)	The outpatient experience must include a resident
869		longitudinal/continuity clinic with attendance by
870		each resident at a minimum of 40 half-day clinics a
871		year throughout the educational program. <sup>(Core)</sup>
872		
873	IV.C.6.a).(2).(b)	The longitudinal/continuity clinic must not be
874		interrupted by more than five weeks. <sup>(Core)</sup>
875		
876	IV.C.6.a).(2).(c)	At least three months of the outpatient experience
877		must be outside the longitudinal/continuity clinic.
878		<sup>(Core)</sup>
879		
880	IV.C.6.b)	a minimum of three months of elective time; <sup>(Core)</sup>
881		
882	IV.C.6.c)	a minimum of three months FTE in clinical child neurology with
883		management responsibility under the supervision of a child
884		neurologist with ABPN or AOBNP certification or who possesses
885		qualifications acceptable to the Review Committee; <sup>(Core)</sup>
886		
887	IV.C.6.d)	at least one month FTE in clinical psychiatry, including cognition
888		and behavior under the supervision of a psychiatrist certified by
889		the ABPN or AOBNP or who possesses qualifications acceptable
890		to the Review Committee; <sup>(Core)</sup>
891		
892	IV.C.6.e)	clinical teaching rounds supervised by faculty members at least
893		five days per week; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>
894		
895	IV.C.6.f)	exposure to and understanding of evaluation and management of
896		patients with neurological disorders in various settings, including
897		an intensive care unit and an emergency department, and for
898		patients requiring acute neurosurgical management. <sup>(Core)</sup>
899		
900	IV.C.7.	Residents must have clinical and didactic experiences in all aspects of
901		neurology, including behavioral neurology, child neurology, clinical
902		neurophysiology, epilepsy, headache, infectious disease, movement
903		disorders, neurocritical care, neurogenetics, neuroimaging,
904		neuroimmunology, neurology of aging, neuromuscular medicine, neuro-

905		oncology, neurotology, neuro-ophthalmology, neuropathology, pain
906		management, sleep disorders, and vascular neurology. <sup>(Core)</sup>
907		
908	IV.C.7.a)	Clinical and didactic experiences in neuroimaging must include
909		magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography
910		(CT), and neurosonology. <sup>(Core)</sup>
911		
912	IV.C.8.	Residents must attend required seminars, conferences, and journal clubs.
913		<sup>(Core)</sup>
914		
915	IV.C.9.	Seminars and conferences must include the full spectrum of neurological
916		disorders across the lifespan. <sup>(Core)</sup>
917		
918	IV.C.10.	The curriculum must include the basic scientific foundations of clinical
919		neurology. <sup>(Core)</sup>
920		
921	IV.C.11.	Residents must attend at least one national professional conference
922		during their three years of residency. <sup>(Core)</sup>
923		
924	IV.C.11.a)	Residents should receive financial support to attend at least one
925		national professional conference. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
926		
927	<b>IV.D.</b>	<b>Scholarship</b>
928		
929		<b><i>Medicine is both an art and a science. The physician is a humanistic</i></b>
930		<b><i>scientist who cares for patients. This requires the ability to think critically,</i></b>
931		<b><i>evaluate the literature, appropriately assimilate new knowledge, and</i></b>
932		<b><i>practice lifelong learning. The program and faculty must create an</i></b>
933		<b><i>environment that fosters the acquisition of such skills through resident</i></b>
934		<b><i>participation in scholarly activities. Scholarly activities may include</i></b>
935		<b><i>discovery, integration, application, and teaching.</i></b>
936		
937		<b><i>The ACGME recognizes the diversity of residencies and anticipates that</i></b>
938		<b><i>programs prepare physicians for a variety of roles, including clinicians,</i></b>
939		<b><i>scientists, and educators. It is expected that the program's scholarship will</i></b>
940		<b><i>reflect its mission(s) and aims, and the needs of the community it serves.</i></b>
941		<b><i>For example, some programs may concentrate their scholarly activity on</i></b>
942		<b><i>quality improvement, population health, and/or teaching, while other</i></b>
943		<b><i>programs might choose to utilize more classic forms of biomedical</i></b>
944		<b><i>research as the focus for scholarship.</i></b>
945		
946	<b>IV.D.1.</b>	<b>Program Responsibilities</b>
947		
948	<b>IV.D.1.a)</b>	<b>The program must demonstrate evidence of scholarly</b>
949		<b>activities consistent with its mission(s) and aims. <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
950		
951	<b>IV.D.1.b)</b>	<b>The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution,</b>
952		<b>must allocate adequate resources to facilitate resident and</b>
953		<b>faculty involvement in scholarly activities. <sup>(Core)</sup></b>
954		

955 IV.D.1.c) The program must advance residents' knowledge and  
956 practice of the scholarly approach to evidence-based patient  
957 care. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
958

**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.

959  
960 IV.D.2. Faculty Scholarly Activity

961  
962 IV.D.2.a) Among their scholarly activity, programs must demonstrate  
963 accomplishments in at least three of the following domains:  
964 <sup>(Core)</sup>

- 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

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

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**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)

**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.**

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

**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.**

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- V.A.1.b) Evaluation must be documented at the completion of the assignment. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

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

- 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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

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

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

- V.A.1.c).(1).(a) Each resident must be evaluated by a minimum of three faculty members who are ABPN- or AOBNP-certified neurologists, including at least one child neurologist. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

- V.A.1.c).(1).(b) Faculty evaluators must observe the resident's performance and evaluate the resident's skills in medical interviewing, neurological examination, and counseling; professionalism; and ability to provide a**

1040		case summary that includes patient assessment and management. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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1043	V.A.1.c).(1).(c)	The evaluations should serve as teaching opportunity through which residents are given constructive feedback on their performance. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1044		
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1047	V.A.1.c).(2)	<b>provide that information to the Clinical Competency Committee for its synthesis of progressive resident performance and improvement toward unsupervised practice.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
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1052	V.A.1.d)	<b>The program director or their designee, with input from the Clinical Competency Committee, must:</b>
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1055	V.A.1.d).(1)	<b>meet with and review with each resident his or her documented semi-annual evaluation of performance, including progress along the specialty-specific Milestones;</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
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1060	V.A.1.d).(1).(a)	Each resident should be provided with formative feedback from a resident in-service training examination and clinical skills assessments. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1061		
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1064	V.A.1.d).(1).(b)	Data provided during the semiannual evaluation should be used to prepare a personal learning plan that is regularly reviewed and revised with the program director and/or faculty mentor. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1065		
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1069	V.A.1.d).(2)	<b>assist residents in developing individualized learning plans to capitalize on their strengths and identify areas for growth; and,</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1070		
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1072		
1073	V.A.1.d).(3)	<b>develop plans for residents failing to progress, following institutional policies and procedures.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1074		
1075		

**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.**

- 1076  
1077 **V.A.1.e)** **At least annually, there must be a summative evaluation of**  
1078 **each resident that includes their readiness to progress to the**  
1079 **next year of the program, if applicable. (Core)**  
1080  
1081 **V.A.1.f)** **The evaluations of a resident’s performance must be**  
1082 **accessible for review by the resident. (Core)**  
1083  
1084 **V.A.2. Final Evaluation**  
1085  
1086 **V.A.2.a)** **The program director must provide a final evaluation for each**  
1087 **resident upon completion of the program. (Core)**  
1088  
1089 **V.A.2.a).(1)** **The specialty-specific Milestones, and when applicable**  
1090 **the specialty-specific Case Logs, must be used as**  
1091 **tools to ensure residents are able to engage in**  
1092 **autonomous practice upon completion of the program.**  
1093 **(Core)**  
1094  
1095 **V.A.2.a).(2)** **The final evaluation must:**  
1096  
1097 **V.A.2.a).(2).(a)** **become part of the resident’s permanent record**  
1098 **maintained by the institution, and must be**  
1099 **accessible for review by the resident in**  
1100 **accordance with institutional policy; (Core)**  
1101  
1102 **V.A.2.a).(2).(b)** **verify that the resident has demonstrated the**  
1103 **knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to**  
1104 **enter autonomous practice; (Core)**  
1105  
1106 **V.A.2.a).(2).(c)** **consider recommendations from the Clinical**  
1107 **Competency Committee; and, (Core)**  
1108  
1109 **V.A.2.a).(2).(d)** **be shared with the resident upon completion of**  
1110 **the program. (Core)**  
1111  
1112 **V.A.3. A Clinical Competency Committee must be appointed by the**  
1113 **program director. (Core)**  
1114  
1115 **V.A.3.a)** **At a minimum, the Clinical Competency Committee must**  
1116 **include three members of the program faculty, at least one of**  
1117 **whom is a core faculty member. (Core)**  
1118  
1119 **V.A.3.a).(1)** **Additional members must be faculty members from**  
1120 **the same program or other programs, or other health**  
1121 **professionals who have extensive contact and**  
1122 **experience with the program’s residents. (Core)**  
1123



**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.

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- 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.

- 1143  
1144 **V.B.1.a)** This evaluation must include a review of the faculty member's  
1145 clinical teaching abilities, engagement with the educational  
1146 program, participation in faculty development related to their  
1147 skills as an educator, clinical performance, professionalism,  
1148 and scholarly activities. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1149  
1150 **V.B.1.b)** This evaluation must include written, anonymous, and  
1151 confidential evaluations by the residents. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1152  
1153 **V.B.2.** Faculty members must receive feedback on their evaluations at least  
1154 annually. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1155  
1156 **V.B.3.** Results of the faculty educational evaluations should be  
1157 incorporated into program-wide faculty development plans. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1158

**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.**

- 1159  
1160 **V.C. Program Evaluation and Improvement**  
1161  
1162 **V.C.1.** The program director must appoint the Program Evaluation  
1163 Committee to conduct and document the Annual Program  
1164 Evaluation as part of the program's continuous improvement  
1165 process. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1166  
1167 **V.C.1.a)** The Program Evaluation Committee must be composed of at  
1168 least two program faculty members, at least one of whom is a  
1169 core faculty member, and at least one resident. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1170  
1171 **V.C.1.b)** Program Evaluation Committee responsibilities must include:  
1172  
1173 **V.C.1.b).(1)** acting as an advisor to the program director, through  
1174 program oversight; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1175  
1176 **V.C.1.b).(2)** review of the program's self-determined goals and  
1177 progress toward meeting them; <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1178  
1179 **V.C.1.b).(3)** guiding ongoing program improvement, including  
1180 development of new goals, based upon outcomes;  
1181 and, <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1182  
1183 **V.C.1.b).(4)** review of the current operating environment to identify  
1184 strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats as  
1185 related to the program's mission and aims. <sup>(Core)</sup>

1186

**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.**

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- 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.** (Core)
- V.C.1.c).(7) aggregate faculty:**

- 1231  
 1232 V.C.1.c).(7).(a) evaluation; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1233  
 1234 V.C.1.c).(7).(b) professional development. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1235  
 1236 V.C.1.d) The Program Evaluation Committee must evaluate the  
 1237 program's mission and aims, strengths, areas for  
 1238 improvement, and threats. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1239  
 1240 V.C.1.e) The annual review, including the action plan, must:  
 1241  
 1242 V.C.1.e).(1) be distributed to and discussed with the members of  
 1243 the teaching faculty and the residents; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1244  
 1245 V.C.1.e).(2) be submitted to the DIO. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1246  
 1247 V.C.2. The program must complete a Self-Study prior to its 10-Year  
 1248 Accreditation Site Visit. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1249  
 1250 V.C.2.a) A summary of the Self-Study must be submitted to the DIO.  
 1251 <sup>(Core)</sup>  
 1252

**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.**

- 1253  
 1254 V.C.3. *One goal of ACGME-accredited education is to educate physicians*  
 1255 *who seek and achieve board certification. One measure of the*  
 1256 *effectiveness of the educational program is the ultimate pass rate.*  
 1257  
 1258 *The program director should encourage all eligible program*  
 1259 *graduates to take the certifying examination offered by the*  
 1260 *applicable American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member*  
 1261 *board or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) certifying board.*  
 1262  
 1263 V.C.3.a) For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA  
 1264 certifying board offer(s) an annual written exam, in the  
 1265 preceding three years, the program's aggregate pass rate of  
 1266 those taking the examination for the first time must be higher  
 1267 than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.  
 1268 <sup>(Outcome)</sup>  
 1269

- 1270 **V.C.3.b)** For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA  
 1271 certifying board offer(s) a biennial written exam, in the  
 1272 preceding six years, the program’s aggregate pass rate of  
 1273 those taking the examination for the first time must be higher  
 1274 than the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.  
 1275 (Outcome)  
 1276
- 1277 **V.C.3.c)** For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA  
 1278 certifying board offer(s) an annual oral exam, in the preceding  
 1279 three years, the program’s aggregate pass rate of those  
 1280 taking the examination for the first time must be higher than  
 1281 the bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty.  
 1282 (Outcome)  
 1283
- 1284 **V.C.3.d)** For specialties in which the ABMS member board and/or AOA  
 1285 certifying board offer(s) a biennial oral exam, in the preceding  
 1286 six years, the program’s aggregate pass rate of those taking  
 1287 the examination for the first time must be higher than the  
 1288 bottom fifth percentile of programs in that specialty. (Outcome)  
 1289
- 1290 **V.C.3.e)** For each of the exams referenced in V.C.3.a)-d), any program  
 1291 whose graduates over the time period specified in the  
 1292 requirement have achieved an 80 percent pass rate will have  
 1293 met this requirement, no matter the percentile rank of the  
 1294 program for pass rate in that specialty. (Outcome)  
 1295

**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.**

- 1296  
 1297 **V.C.3.f)** Programs must report, in ADS, board certification status  
 1298 annually for the cohort of board-eligible residents that  
 1299 graduated seven years earlier. (Core)  
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**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.

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## 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.

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**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**

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

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

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**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;** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(ii)**

**know how to report patient safety events, including near misses, at the clinical site; and,** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**VI.A.1.a).(3).(a).(iii)**

**be provided with summary information of their institution's patient safety reports.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.** <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.*



1418	VI.A.1.a).(4).(a)	All residents must receive training in how to disclose adverse events to patients and families. <sup>(Core)</sup>
1419		
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1422	VI.A.1.a).(4).(b)	Residents should have the opportunity to participate in the disclosure of patient safety events, real or simulated. <sup>(Detail)†</sup>
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1426	VI.A.1.b)	Quality Improvement
1427		
1428	VI.A.1.b).(1)	Education in Quality Improvement
1429		
1430		<i>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.</i>
1431		
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1435	VI.A.1.b).(1).(a)	Residents must receive training and experience in quality improvement processes, including an understanding of health care disparities. <sup>(Core)</sup>
1436		
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1439	VI.A.1.b).(2)	Quality Metrics
1440		
1441		<i>Access to data is essential to prioritizing activities for care improvement and evaluating success of improvement efforts.</i>
1442		
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1444		
1445	VI.A.1.b).(2).(a)	Residents and faculty members must receive data on quality metrics and benchmarks related to their patient populations. <sup>(Core)</sup>
1446		
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1449	VI.A.1.b).(3)	Engagement in Quality Improvement Activities
1450		
1451		<i>Experiential learning is essential to developing the ability to identify and institute sustainable systems-based changes to improve patient care.</i>
1452		
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1455	VI.A.1.b).(3).(a)	Residents must have the opportunity to participate in interprofessional quality improvement activities. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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1459	VI.A.1.b).(3).(a).(i)	This should include activities aimed at reducing health care disparities. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1460		
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1462	VI.A.2.	Supervision and Accountability
1463		
1464	VI.A.2.a)	<i>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,</i>
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1469 *and monitor a structured chain of responsibility and*  
1470 *accountability as it relates to the supervision of all patient*  
1471 *care.*

1472  
1473 *Supervision in the setting of graduate medical education*  
1474 *provides safe and effective care to patients; ensures each*  
1475 *resident's development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes*  
1476 *required to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine; and*  
1477 *establishes a foundation for continued professional growth.*

1478  
1479 **VI.A.2.a).(1)** Each patient must have an identifiable and  
1480 appropriately-credentialed and privileged attending  
1481 physician (or licensed independent practitioner as  
1482 specified by the applicable Review Committee) who is  
1483 responsible and accountable for the patient's care.  
1484 (Core)

1485  
1486 **VI.A.2.a).(1).(a)** This information must be available to residents,  
1487 faculty members, other members of the health  
1488 care team, and patients. (Core)

1489  
1490 **VI.A.2.a).(1).(b)** Residents and faculty members must inform  
1491 each patient of their respective roles in that  
1492 patient's care when providing direct patient  
1493 care. (Core)

1494  
1495 **VI.A.2.b)** *Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods.*  
1496 *For many aspects of patient care, the supervising physician*  
1497 *may be a more advanced resident or fellow. Other portions of*  
1498 *care provided by the resident can be adequately supervised*  
1499 *by the appropriate availability of the supervising faculty*  
1500 *member, fellow, or senior resident physician, either on site or*  
1501 *by means of telecommunication technology. Some activities*  
1502 *require the physical presence of the supervising faculty*  
1503 *member. In some circumstances, supervision may include*  
1504 *post-hoc review of resident-delivered care with feedback.*

**Background and Intent: Appropriate supervision is essential for patient safety and high-quality teaching. Supervision is also contextual. There is tremendous diversity of resident patient interactions, education and training locations, and resident skills and abilities even at the same level of the educational program. The degree of supervision is expected to evolve progressively as a resident gains more experience, even with the same patient condition or procedure. All residents have a level of supervision commensurate with their level of autonomy in practice; this level of supervision may be enhanced based on factors such as patient safety, complexity, acuity, urgency, risk of serious adverse events, or other pertinent variables.**

1506  
1507 **VI.A.2.b).(1)** The program must demonstrate that the appropriate  
1508 level of supervision in place for all residents is based  
1509 on each resident's level of training and ability, as well  
1510 as patient complexity and acuity. Supervision may be

1511		<b>exercised through a variety of methods, as appropriate</b>
1512		<b>to the situation.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1513		
1514	<b>VI.A.2.b).(2)</b>	<b>The program must define when physical presence of a</b>
1515		<b>supervising physician is required.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1516		
1517	<b>VI.A.2.c)</b>	<b>Levels of Supervision</b>
1518		
1519		<b>To promote appropriate resident supervision while providing</b>
1520		<b>for graded authority and responsibility, the program must use</b>
1521		<b>the following classification of supervision:</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1522		
1523	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1)</b>	<b>Direct Supervision:</b>
1524		
1525	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(a)</b>	<b>the supervising physician is physically present</b>
1526		<b>with the resident during the key portions of the</b>
1527		<b>patient interaction; or,</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1528		
1529	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i)</b>	<b>PGY-1 residents must initially be</b>
1530		<b>supervised directly, only as described in</b>
1531		<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1532		
1533	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i).(a)</b>	<b>The program must provide the</b>
1534		<b>resources to ensure that only</b>
1535		<b>neurology or child neurology</b>
1536		<b>residents supervise neurology</b>
1537		<b>residents on any neurology inpatient</b>
1538		<b>rotation.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1539		
1540	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(a).(i).(b)</b>	<b>PGY-2, PGY-3, and PGY-4</b>
1541		<b>neurology residents or other</b>
1542		<b>appropriate supervisory physicians</b>
1543		<b>(e.g., subspecialty residents or</b>
1544		<b>attendings) with documented</b>
1545		<b>experience appropriate to the acuity,</b>
1546		<b>complexity, and severity of patient</b>
1547		<b>illness must be available at all times</b>
1548		<b>on-site to supervise first-year</b>
1549		<b>residents on inpatient rotations.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1550		
1551	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b)</b>	<b>the supervising physician and/or patient is not</b>
1552		<b>physically present with the resident and the</b>
1553		<b>supervising physician is concurrently</b>
1554		<b>monitoring the patient care through appropriate</b>
1555		<b>telecommunication technology.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1556		
1557	<b>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i)</b>	<u><b>When residents are supervised directly</b></u>
1558		<u><b>through telecommunication technology, the</b></u>
1559		<u><b>supervising physician and the resident must</b></u>
1560		<u><b>interact with each other, and the patient, to</b></u>

1561		<u>solicit the key elements of the clinic visit and</u>
1562		<u>agree upon a management plan.</u> <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1563		
1564	<b>VI.A.2.c).(2)</b>	<b>Indirect Supervision: the supervising physician is not</b>
1565		<b>providing physical or concurrent visual or audio</b>
1566		<b>supervision but is immediately available to the</b>
1567		<b>resident for guidance and is available to provide</b>
1568		<b>appropriate direct supervision.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1569		
1570	<b>VI.A.2.c).(3)</b>	<b>Oversight – the supervising physician is available to</b>
1571		<b>provide review of procedures/encounters with</b>
1572		<b>feedback provided after care is delivered.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1573		
1574	<b>VI.A.2.d)</b>	<b>The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility,</b>
1575		<b>conditional independence, and a supervisory role in patient</b>
1576		<b>care delegated to each resident must be assigned by the</b>
1577		<b>program director and faculty members.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1578		
1579	<b>VI.A.2.d).(1)</b>	<b>The program director must evaluate each resident’s</b>
1580		<b>abilities based on specific criteria, guided by the</b>
1581		<b>Milestones.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1582		
1583	<b>VI.A.2.d).(2)</b>	<b>Faculty members functioning as supervising</b>
1584		<b>physicians must delegate portions of care to residents</b>
1585		<b>based on the needs of the patient and the skills of</b>
1586		<b>each resident.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1587		
1588	<b>VI.A.2.d).(3)</b>	<b>Senior residents or fellows should serve in a</b>
1589		<b>supervisory role to junior residents in recognition of</b>
1590		<b>their progress toward independence, based on the</b>
1591		<b>needs of each patient and the skills of the individual</b>
1592		<b>resident or fellow.</b> <sup>(Detail)</sup>
1593		
1594	<b>VI.A.2.e)</b>	<b>Programs must set guidelines for circumstances and events</b>
1595		<b>in which residents must communicate with the supervising</b>
1596		<b>faculty member(s).</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1597		
1598	<b>VI.A.2.e).(1)</b>	<b>Each resident must know the limits of their scope of</b>
1599		<b>authority, and the circumstances under which the</b>
1600		<b>resident is permitted to act with conditional</b>
1601		<b>independence.</b> <sup>(Outcome)</sup>
1602		

<p><b>Background and Intent: The ACGME Glossary of Terms defines conditional independence as: Graded, progressive responsibility for patient care with defined oversight.</b></p>
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1603		
1604	<b>VI.A.2.f)</b>	<b>Faculty supervision assignments must be of sufficient</b>
1605		<b>duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each resident</b>
1606		<b>and to delegate to the resident the appropriate level of patient</b>
1607		<b>care authority and responsibility.</b> <sup>(Core)</sup>
1608		

- 1609 **VI.B. Professionalism**
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- 1611 **VI.B.1. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must**
- 1612 **educate residents and faculty members concerning the professional**
- 1613 **responsibilities of physicians, including their obligation to be**
- 1614 **appropriately rested and fit to provide the care required by their**
- 1615 **patients.** <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1616
- 1617 **VI.B.2. The learning objectives of the program must:**
- 1618
- 1619 **VI.B.2.a) be accomplished through an appropriate blend of supervised**
- 1620 **patient care responsibilities, clinical teaching, and didactic**
- 1621 **educational events;** <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1622
- 1623 **VI.B.2.b) be accomplished without excessive reliance on residents to**
- 1624 **fulfill non-physician obligations; and,** <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1625

**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.**

- 1626
- 1627 **VI.B.2.c) ensure manageable patient care responsibilities.** <sup>(Core)</sup>
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**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.**

- 1629
- 1630 **VI.B.3. The program director, in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution,**
- 1631 **must provide a culture of professionalism that supports patient**
- 1632 **safety and personal responsibility.** <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1633
- 1634 **VI.B.4. Residents and faculty members must demonstrate an understanding**
- 1635 **of their personal role in the:**
- 1636
- 1637 **VI.B.4.a) provision of patient- and family-centered care;** <sup>(Outcome)</sup>
- 1638
- 1639 **VI.B.4.b) safety and welfare of patients entrusted to their care,**
- 1640 **including the ability to report unsafe conditions and adverse**
- 1641 **events;** <sup>(Outcome)</sup>

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**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.**

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**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.**

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

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**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)**

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

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

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

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**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)**

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**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)**

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**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)**

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**VI.C. Well-Being**

***Psychological, emotional, and physical well-being are critical in the development of the competent, caring, and resilient physician and require***

1683 *proactive attention to life inside and outside of medicine. Well-being*  
1684 *requires that physicians retain the joy in medicine while managing their*  
1685 *own real-life stresses. Self-care and responsibility to support other*  
1686 *members of the health care team are important components of*  
1687 *professionalism; they are also skills that must be modeled, learned, and*  
1688 *nurtured in the context of other aspects of residency training.*

1690 *Residents and faculty members are at risk for burnout and depression.*  
1691 *Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, have the same*  
1692 *responsibility to address well-being as other aspects of resident*  
1693 *competence. Physicians and all members of the health care team share*  
1694 *responsibility for the well-being of each other. For example, a culture which*  
1695 *encourages covering for colleagues after an illness without the expectation*  
1696 *of reciprocity reflects the ideal of professionalism. A positive culture in a*  
1697 *clinical learning environment models constructive behaviors, and prepares*  
1698 *residents with the skills and attitudes needed to thrive throughout their*  
1699 *careers.*

1700

**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.**

- 1701
- 1702 **VI.C.1. The responsibility of the program, in partnership with the**
- 1703 **Sponsoring Institution, to address well-being must include:**
- 1704
- 1705 **VI.C.1.a) efforts to enhance the meaning that each resident finds in the**
- 1706 **experience of being a physician, including protecting time**
- 1707 **with patients, minimizing non-physician obligations,**
- 1708 **providing administrative support, promoting progressive**
- 1709 **autonomy and flexibility, and enhancing professional**
- 1710 **relationships; <sup>(Core)</sup>**
- 1711
- 1712 **VI.C.1.b) attention to scheduling, work intensity, and work**
- 1713 **compression that impacts resident well-being; <sup>(Core)</sup>**
- 1714
- 1715 **VI.C.1.c) evaluating workplace safety data and addressing the safety of**
- 1716 **residents and faculty members; <sup>(Core)</sup>**
- 1717

**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.

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

**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.

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**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

**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.

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**VI.C.1.e) attention to resident and faculty member burnout, depression, and substance use disorders. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must educate faculty members and residents in identification of the symptoms of burnout, depression, and substance use disorders, 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: <sup>(Core)</sup>**

**Background and Intent:** Programs and Sponsoring Institutions are encouraged to review materials in order to create systems for identification of burnout, depression, and substance use disorders. 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>).

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**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, a substance use disorder, suicidal ideation, or potential for violence; <sup>(Core)</sup>**



**Background and Intent:** Individuals experiencing burnout, depression, a substance use disorder, 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.

- 1749  
1750 VI.C.1.e).(2) provide access to appropriate tools for self-screening;  
1751 and, (Core)  
1752  
1753 VI.C.1.e).(3) provide access to confidential, affordable mental  
1754 health assessment, counseling, and treatment,  
1755 including access to urgent and emergent care 24  
1756 hours a day, seven days a week. (Core)  
1757

**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.

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1759 VI.C.2. There are circumstances in which residents may be unable to attend  
1760 work, including but not limited to fatigue, illness, family  
1761 emergencies, and parental leave. Each program must allow an  
1762 appropriate length of absence for residents unable to perform their  
1763 patient care responsibilities. (Core)  
1764  
1765 VI.C.2.a) The program must have policies and procedures in place to  
1766 ensure coverage of patient care. (Core)  
1767  
1768 VI.C.2.b) These policies must be implemented without fear of negative  
1769 consequences for the resident who is or was unable to  
1770 provide the clinical work. (Core)  
1771

**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.**

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- 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; <sup>(Core)</sup>**
  - VI.D.1.b) educate all faculty members and residents in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes; and, <sup>(Core)</sup>**
  - VI.D.1.c) encourage residents to use fatigue mitigation processes to manage the potential negative effects of fatigue on patient care and learning. <sup>(Detail)</sup>**

**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.**

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- 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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**
- 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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**
- 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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

1805 VI.E.1.a) The program director must have the authority and responsibility to  
1806 set appropriate clinical responsibilities (i.e., patient caps) for each  
1807 resident. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1808

**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.**

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1810 VI.E.2. Teamwork  
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1812 Residents must care for patients in an environment that maximizes  
1813 communication. This must include the opportunity to work as a  
1814 member of effective interprofessional teams that are appropriate to  
1815 the delivery of care in the specialty and larger health system. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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1817 VI.E.3. Transitions of Care  
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1819 VI.E.3.a) Programs must design clinical assignments to optimize  
1820 transitions in patient care, including their safety, frequency,  
1821 and structure. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1822

1823 VI.E.3.b) Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions,  
1824 must ensure and monitor effective, structured hand-over  
1825 processes to facilitate both continuity of care and patient  
1826 safety. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
1827

1828 VI.E.3.c) Programs must ensure that residents are competent in  
1829 communicating with team members in the hand-over process.  
1830 <sup>(Outcome)</sup>  
1831

1832 VI.E.3.d) Programs and clinical sites must maintain and communicate  
1833 schedules of attending physicians and residents currently  
1834 responsible for care. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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1836 VI.E.3.e) Each program must ensure continuity of patient care,  
1837 consistent with the program's policies and procedures  
1838 referenced in VI.C.2-VI.C.2.b), in the event that a resident may  
1839 be unable to perform their patient care responsibilities due to  
1840 excessive fatigue or illness, or family emergency. <sup>(Core)</sup>  
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1842 VI.F. Clinical Experience and Education  
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1844 *Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must design*  
1845 *an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with*  
1846 *educational and clinical experience opportunities, as well as reasonable*  
1847 *opportunities for rest and personal activities.*

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**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.

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

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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. <sup>(Core)</sup>

**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.

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1858 **VI.F.2. Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education**  
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1860 **VI.F.2.a) The program must design an effective program structure that**  
1861 **is configured to provide residents with educational**  
1862 **opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest**  
1863 **and personal well-being. <sup>(Core)</sup>**  
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1865 **VI.F.2.b) Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled**  
1866 **clinical work and education periods. <sup>(Detail)</sup>**  
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1868 **VI.F.2.b).(1) There may be circumstances when residents choose**  
1869 **to stay to care for their patients or return to the**  
1870 **hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical**  
1871 **experience and education. This must occur within the**

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context of the 80-hour and the one-day-off-in-seven requirements. <sup>(Detail)</sup>

**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.

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

**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.

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**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

**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."

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**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

**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.

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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.

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VI.F.4.

Clinical and Educational Work Hour Exceptions

- 1904 VI.F.4.a) In rare circumstances, after handing off all other
- 1905 responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect
- 1906 to remain or return to the clinical site in the following
- 1907 circumstances:
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- 1909 VI.F.4.a).(1) to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or
- 1910 unstable patient; <sup>(Detail)</sup>
- 1911
- 1912 VI.F.4.a).(2) humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or
- 1913 family; or, <sup>(Detail)</sup>
- 1914
- 1915 VI.F.4.a).(3) to attend unique educational events. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
- 1916
- 1917 VI.F.4.b) These additional hours of care or education will be counted
- 1918 toward the 80-hour weekly limit. <sup>(Detail)</sup>
- 1919

**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.

- 1920
- 1921 VI.F.4.c) A Review Committee may grant rotation-specific exceptions
- 1922 for up to 10 percent or a maximum of 88 clinical and
- 1923 educational work hours to individual programs based on a
- 1924 sound educational rationale.
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- 1926 The Review Committee for Neurology will not consider requests
- 1927 for exceptions to the 80-hour limit to the residents' work week.
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1929 VI.F.5. Moonlighting

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- 1931 VI.F.5.a) Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident
- 1932 to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational
- 1933 program, and must not interfere with the resident's fitness for
- 1934 work nor compromise patient safety. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1935
- 1936 VI.F.5.b) Time spent by residents in internal and external moonlighting
- 1937 (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms) must be
- 1938 counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit. <sup>(Core)</sup>
- 1939
- 1940 VI.F.5.c) PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight. <sup>(Core)</sup>
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**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>).



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**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>**

VI.F.6.a) Residents should not have more than two consecutive weeks of night float or half of a calendar month (maximum 16 days). <sup>(Detail)</sup>

**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.**

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**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). <sup>(Core)</sup>**

**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. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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. <sup>(Core)</sup>

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. <sup>(Detail)</sup>

**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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1977 \***Core Requirements:** Statements that define structure, resource, or process elements  
1978 essential to every graduate medical educational program.  
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1980 †**Detail Requirements:** Statements that describe a specific structure, resource, or process, for  
1981 achieving compliance with a Core Requirement. Programs and sponsoring institutions in  
1982 substantial compliance with the Outcome Requirements may utilize alternative or innovative  
1983 approaches to meet Core Requirements.  
1984  
1985 ‡**Outcome Requirements:** Statements that specify expected measurable or observable  
1986 attributes (knowledge, abilities, skills, or attitudes) of residents or fellows at key stages of their  
1987 graduate medical education.  
1988  
1989 **Osteopathic Recognition**  
1990 For programs with or applying for Osteopathic Recognition, the Osteopathic Recognition  
1991 Requirements also apply ([www.acgme.org/OsteopathicRecognition](http://www.acgme.org/OsteopathicRecognition)).