



Information for Program Directors of Multi-specialty Combined Programs in Preventive Medicine Review Committee for Preventive Medicine

Residency programs that combine education in preventive medicine with another specialty, such as family medicine or internal medicine, allow graduates to sit for certifying examinations in both specialties. Typically, combined programs will also allow completion of the educational program in both individual core specialties in less time than would be required if residents enrolled in each program serially.

The ACGME does not review or accredit combined programs in preventive medicine. For graduates to be eligible for certification in preventive medicine, the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) requires that the program offering combined education first be separately accredited by the ACGME in preventive medicine. Likewise, the program in the other involved specialty must be separately accredited by the ACGME.

For the individual core specialty programs to receive and maintain ACGME accreditation, the preventive medicine (and, in turn, the family medicine or internal medicine) portion of the combined educational program must independently fulfill all of the Program Requirements for a free-standing residency in the specialty. Even if the program is only offered to individuals in the 'combined program', the content, duration, and structure of the preventive medicine educational activities must meet all of the requirements expected for any other preventive medicine residency. Programs must be constituted so that a hypothetical resident could enter the program solely to receive his/her education in preventive medicine, undertake the same preventive medicine experiences offered to residents in the combined program, and finish with a complete education that would qualify him/her to sit for the ABPM certifying examination.

Program directors interested in tracking a combined (components individually accredited) program using the ACGME's Accreditation Data System (ADS) should e-mail ADS@acgme.org to obtain detailed instruction on what is needed to create an account. Residents and faculty members in the combined program should be entered into ADS as part of the combined program only. They **should not** be entered under the preventive medicine program number, even during periods when they are completing preventive medicine requirements only. Each individual core specialty program should count each combined resident as 0.5 in its total number of approved positions.

Residents and faculty members in the combined program will receive annual surveys that can be used by the Sponsoring Institution in its review of programs; however, the Review Committee for Preventive Medicine **will not** review annual data for combined programs, including Faculty and Resident Survey results and Board pass rates.

The Review Committee will review annual data related only to the ACGME-accredited preventive medicine program. Program directors must ensure that the presence of residents in the combined program does not negatively impact the education of residents enrolled in the ACGME-accredited preventive medicine program and affect that program's accreditation status.