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^{*} Carceral medicine should be considered as a potential alternative name for the proposed Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship. This alternative name refers to the carceral settings (i.e., prisons and jails) serving as participating sites for the fellowship, and avoids implying that the care provided by physicians in these settings is correctional.

43 I. Executive Summary

44

This proposal requests that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)
begin to provide accreditation for Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship programs for
physicians in correctional medicine. The accreditation of such fellowships will improve health
care and population health by providing a formal graduate medical education (GME) pathway
for physicians to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and exposures associated with competent
physicians providing care in prisons, jails, and other carceral settings.

ACGME accreditation designation for correctional medicine fellowships will address the demand for a competent workforce of physicians able to improve the health of incarcerated patients and populations. The fellowship will prepare physicians to provide direct patient care while addressing complex, systems-based challenges associated with health services delivery in corrections.

57

58 By combining clinical rotation experiences with longitudinal mentorship and an underlying

59 curricular framework, fellowship programs will educate physicians to ensure their attainment of

60 the ACGME Core Competencies. Fellows will develop an essential set of skills to address

61 incarcerated or detained individuals' health and health care needs in collaboration with

62 correctional facilities, and in compliance with policies, procedures, and regulations. Accredited

63 fellowship programs will provide education regarding the social, historical, and legal contexts for

64 health care in carceral settings, and will emphasize physicians' roles in transitions of care,

65 including transition services and planning for community re-entry, to optimize patients' health66 outcomes.

67

68 Programs will have a duration of one or two years, and will include core and elective

69 experiences in a format that allows for customization based on individualized learning goals.

70 Fellowships will offer multidisciplinary learning opportunities inside and outside of correctional

71 facilities. Sponsoring Institutions will have opportunities to design didactic education and

scholarly activities that develop fellows' practical skills, including research, advocacy, and

73 management. Fellows who complete the two-year program format may have opportunities to

obtain a Master's-level degree (MPH, MHA, MPA) or a certificate while satisfying requirements

for completing the fellowship. Fellows will have the option to engage in unsupervised clinical

76 practice in their primary specialty or subspecialty to ensure their continued professional 77 development outside the scope of the fellowship

- 77 development outside the scope of the fellowship.
- 78

In addition to describing how the fellowship will meet criteria for accreditation designation, this
proposal includes recommendations for the ACGME to engage in organized outreach and
collaboration efforts that would support the development of Sponsoring Institution-based
correctional medicine fellowships.

83

84 Over time, it is anticipated that the fellowships will become part of a more consistent and

standard pathway that encourages the promotion and retention of a defined workforce of

86 physicians who care for incarcerated or detained patients. The fellowship will be designed to

- 87 facilitate organizations' development of partnerships that promote the education of physicians
- 88 committed to eliminating health and health care inequities by ensuring appropriate, systems-
- 89 based patient care.
- 90
- 91

92 II. Introduction

93

94 The ACGME envisions a health care system in which the Quadruple Aim—improving patient 95 experience and population and workforce health while lowering health care costs—has been 96 realized, and understands that this vision will remain unfulfilled without the systematic 97 elimination of inequities in health outcomes, achievement of health equity, and improvement in 98 health across groups of people with social, economic, or environmental differences.^{1,2,3,4} 99 Consistent with the organization's strategic commitment to prepare physicians for public needs,⁵ 100 this proposal explores the potential for the ACGME's accreditation process to acknowledge the 101 development of GME programs in which physicians attain competence in the care of 102 incarcerated or detained patients. 103 104 The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. In 2020, more than 5.5

- 105 million people were under the supervision of adult correctional systems, with approximately 1.7
- 106 million incarcerated in prisons and jails, and approximately 3.9 million on probation or parole.⁶
- 107 There were 8.7 million admissions to jails in 2020.7 Correctional health systems rely on
- 108 numerous and complex approaches to delivering services in prisons, jails, and communities,
- and numerous jurisdictions are facing challenges in maintaining incarcerated individuals'
- 110 constitutionally protected health care access.⁸ Additionally, there is growing recognition of racial
- 111 inequities and the need for systematic reforms to address the inequities of incarceration,
- 112 including the establishment of new standards specific to health care in carceral settings.⁹
- 113
- 114 The ACGME monitors trends in physician education to better understand how organizations
- prepare residents and fellows for practice in a variety of health care environments. The
- 116 physician workforce that provides care to incarcerated populations must possess a distinct body
- of knowledge and a unique skill set to function as effective health care practitioners and
- advocates in environments that can present challenges to meet standards for adequate patient
- care.¹⁰ The competence of physicians who care for incarcerated patients requires the
 development of knowledge of patient populations, correctional systems, ethics, medico-legal
- development of knowledge of patient populations, correctional systems, ethics, medico-legal
 guidance, public health, and setting-specific clinical issues.¹¹ The need for physician education
- 122 in this area has been recognized by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), which
- 123 approved fellowship programs in correctional medicine prior to the transition to a single GME
- 124 accreditation system under the ACGME.
- 125

126 Based on these observations, ACGME staff members completed a preliminary assessment of 127 opportunities for accreditation of GME that prepares physicians for roles in correctional settings. 128 A purposive sample of 32 individuals provided their insights in a series of 30-minute interviews 129 with staff members of the ACGME's Department of Sponsoring Institutions and Clinical Learning 130 Environment Programs between January 2, 2020 and March 8, 2021. Most interviewees were 131 selected for their experience and knowledge of health care of incarcerated patients, or the 132 education of physicians who work in prisons and jails. The Chair of the ACGME Institutional 133 Review Committee and key ACGME staff members were also interviewed. 134

135 Building on insights from this preliminary assessment, ACGME staff members recommended

- the appointment of an advisory work group to develop a proposal for ACGME designation of
- 137 accreditation of fellowships in correctional medicine. ACGME staff members also recommended
- the proposal include specifications for an internal development grant of up to four years to
- develop this new type of fellowship through enhanced outreach and collaboration. The ACGME
- staff recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee of the ACGME Board of
- 141 Directors at its September 25-27, 2021 meeting.
- 142

143 Based on the recommendations, the Board asked ACGME staff members to convene an

- advisory group composed of correctional medicine experts and GME leaders within ACGME-
- 145 accredited Sponsoring Institutions to develop this accreditation designation proposal based on
- the preliminary assessment and other available information. The advisory group was co-chaired
- by Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP, FCRP, president emeritus and senior fellow at the Institute for
 Health Care Improvement and former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
- 149 Services; and Yolanda Hill Wimberly, MD, MSC, FAAP, FSAHM, chief health equity officer of
- 150 Grady Memorial Hospital and former designated institutional official (DIO) of Morehouse School
- 151 of Medicine. A complete list of members of the advisory group, and of ACGME staff members
- 152 who supported the advisory group, is provided in Attachment 1.
- 153

To support the advisory group's preparation of the proposal, the ACGME's Department of Sponsoring Institutions and Clinical Learning Environment Programs conducted additional stakeholder interviews, gathered relevant reference materials, and obtained feedback from DIOs of ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions.

- 158
- 159 The advisory group ensured the accreditation designation proposal was structured to
- 160 demonstrate that the Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine meets all
- 161 criteria for accreditation designation under ACGME policy.¹² After addressing the criteria for
- accreditation designation, the proposal provides additional recommendations, including
- recommendations for enhanced outreach and collaboration activities that would support thedevelopment of Sponsoring Institution-based correctional medicine fellowships.
- 165
- 166 The advisory group respectfully submits this accreditation designation proposal, which has been 167 reviewed by ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas J. Nasca, MD, to the 168 ACGME Board for its consideration.
- 169
- 170 III. Sponsoring Institution-Based Fellowship in Correctional Medicine
- 171
- 172 173
 - A. Improving Clinical Care and Patient Safety, and Addressing Population Health

"The clinical care and safety of patients and populations will be improved through the
designation of the proposed fellowship." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section
12.30.a)

178 To provide clinical services of adequate quality to address the needs of incarcerated patients 179 and populations, and to advance health equity by improving care for the most vulnerable to poor 180 health outcomes, it will be necessary to make a societal investment in preparing a workforce of 181 physicians who are competent to provide health care in prisons, jails, and other carceral 182 settings. The accreditation of Sponsoring Institution-based fellowships in correctional medicine 183 is an opportunity for the ACGME to join this effort. Correctional medicine improves the clinical 184 care and safety of incarcerated populations through the provision of health care and promotion 185 of health inside prisons, jails, and other detention facilities, and extends outside of these 186 facilities to the health systems that provide services to individuals while incarcerated and after release. The proposed fellowship will provide a formal pathway for physicians to learn to provide 187 188 safe and high-quality care addressing a broad scope of health care needs of incarcerated 189 patients and populations across a variety of settings.

190

191 Mass incarceration in the US involves the disproportionate imprisonment of people with lower 192 socioeconomic status and from non-White communities.^{13,14} Lower socioeconomic status and 193 racism are associated with population-level inequities in health and health care. These 194 differences, along with behavioral and societal factors, contribute to a far higher prevalence of 195 physical and mental illness in incarcerated people than in the general population.¹⁵ Before 196 incarceration, patients receiving care in prisons and jails may have received little or no previous 197 medical, mental health, or dental care. Many serious health conditions, including chronic 198 illnesses; certain infectious diseases, such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and 199 hepatitis B and C; and substance use disorders (SUDs), are common among patients in 200 carceral settings.^{16,17,18} To provide appropriate care for incarcerated individuals, physicians 201 must be competent in the prevention and treatment of various health conditions that are 202 common in correctional settings, including emergent and complex health issues and advanced 203 disease. Physicians providing care in the context of corrections must be prepared to address 204 the unique situational and organizational demands of health care delivery in a variety of carceral 205 settings, including jails, prisons, juvenile detention centers, and immigration detention centers. 206 Correctional medicine also requires a commitment to safety, structural competency¹⁹, and the 207 practice of cultural humility in meeting the needs of imprisoned or detained patients, especially 208 those who are from racial or ethnic minority groups, who have disabilities, who are poor, who 209 face health literacy challenges, or who are gender non-conforming. 210 While incarcerated people have elevated health risks at the point of intake in correctional 211 facilities, the experience of incarceration is itself hazardous, catalyzing health-harming 212 processes and producing even higher risks of poor health outcomes.^{20,21} There are a number of 213 potential causes that may contribute to the worsening health of people under the care of 214 correctional systems. Although access to basic medical care in correctional facilities has been 215 established by US Supreme Court precedent as a constitutionally protected right, there is limited 216 accountability for the obligation to provide these health care services, with few mechanisms for 217 the enforcement of care standards outside of litigation and voluntary accreditation processes.²² 218 Social exclusion, a lack of autonomy, and exposures to unhealthy conditions, stress, and 219 violence may negatively affect a person's health status during incarceration. A lack of social 220 support and benefits during transitions from carceral settings to communities may also increase

221 vulnerability to adverse health effects.²³ Physician learners have reported that incarcerated 222 patients receive health care that is inferior to that provided to non-incarcerated patients, as 223 manifested in delays in care and limits on clinical decision-making, suggesting that their 224 participation in care in prisons and jails risks reinforcing structural discrimination that is present 225 in carceral systems.²⁴ Because of this risk, there have been calls for specialized education and 226 training to ensure that physicians do not further contribute to the harms produced by 227 incarceration.²⁵ Resident and fellow experiences in prisons and jails have been identified as a 228 gap in ACGME-accredited education, and it has been argued that more robust and organized 229 exposure to care in these environments would increase the likelihood of physicians choosing to 230 work in correctional settings.²⁶

231

232 Correctional medicine physicians improve care through their ability to support the health of 233 patients as they move through carceral systems. Accreditation of correctional medicine 234 fellowships will provide new opportunities to define standards for learning environments that 235 may provide an appropriate context for physicians' clinical education in prisons, jails, and other 236 carceral facilities. A fellowship-educated physician will attain the knowledge that is needed to 237 mitigate adverse health effects and to protect the health of patients transitioning into, between, 238 and out of correctional facilities. Exposure to carceral environments also presents occupational 239 health and safety risks for health care practitioners; fellowship education will provide structured 240 education regarding these risks and practices for reducing them. In these environments, fellows 241 may experience unique stresses and emotional challenges that could be addressed with 242 focused support systems and processes.

243

244 Correctional health systems have adopted service delivery models that differ in policy and 245 practice from those serving the general population, and are often governed by rules that are 246 specific to a facility or network of facilities and may not be transparent to the public. Public 247 agencies and private, for-profit firms that operate correctional facilities are responsible for 248 financing and arranging health care services, as public insurance does not cover health care 249 provided inside prisons and jails.²⁷ For physicians working in these settings, ethical dilemmas of 250 dual loyalty emerge when conflicts arise between the responsibility to provide appropriate 251 patient care and the demands of a third party (e.g., correctional corporations, government 252 departments) to meet correctional, criminal justice, or budgetary goals.²⁸ Formal education in 253 correctional medicine will ensure that fellows develop an understanding of ethical and practical 254 considerations that enables them to optimize patients' health and well-being when confronting 255 challenges and obstacles to providing care.

256

In the ACGME's preliminary assessment, nearly all of interview participants indicated that physicians and carceral and health systems would benefit from formalized educational programs in correctional medicine, and that ACGME accreditation of a correctional medicine fellowship would provide an appropriate structure. Some participants indicated that ACGME accreditation would be useful in organizational efforts to enlarge the community of correctional medicine physicians. Some participants indicated that accreditation would standardize and, in their words, "legitimize" the pathways that prepare physicians to serve incarcerated patients. Correctional medicine fellowship programs will include experiential and didactic education that ensures the attainment of ACGME Core Competencies with respect to the provision of health care in prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities. Consistent with the Quadruple Aim,^{29,30} Sponsoring Institution-based fellowships in correctional medicine will be expected to follow an approach to health care quality and safety that optimizes the improvement of population health,

- the experience of people who are incarcerated and detained, and provider well-being while
- 271 maximizing value in health care spending.
- 272

273 At a minimum, all correctional medicine fellows will be expected to attain competence in 274 essential aspects of providing patient care in prisons and jails, while working with patients, staff 275 members, and others to improve health outcomes. Under faculty member supervision, fellows 276 will obtain practical experience in collaboration with corrections officers and other staff members 277 who are responsible for the custody and safety of incarcerated individuals. Programs may 278 provide fellows with opportunities to develop skills in a range of participating sites that may 279 include, but are not limited to, prisons, jails, detention centers, specialized correctional facilities, 280 hospitals, and community-based centers that serve incarcerated people. Fellows will be 281 provided with educational experiences in locations outside of correctional facilities, such as 282 courts of law, government agencies, and community organizations, that will build their 283 knowledge of social, policy, and legal contexts for the care they provide. Fellows should study 284 evidence and conclusions regarding the connections between structural racism and 285 incarceration in America.

286

287 Mentorship of fellows by the program director and other faculty members will provide a structure 288 for clinical, communication, and systems-based skills development and assessment over the 289 duration of the fellowship. Fellows will gain experience functioning within systems that are 290 critical to the promotion of patient safety and occupational safety. Substantial education 291 concerning administration, correctional procedures, health policy, and criminal justice policy will 292 prepare fellows for their health system roles. Clinical rotations, which may be customized based 293 on fellows' expertise and past clinical experience, will build fellows' skills in managing quality 294 improvement, including the improvement of population health in prisons and jails. The rotation 295 settings will educate and train fellows to provide leadership of quality improvement activities 296 through interprofessional team collaboration. Fellowship requirements will allow for flexibility to 297 customize the learning experience to facilitate fellows' achievement of individualized career 298 goals as well as identified workforce needs for specialized care within the field of correctional 299 medicine.

300

Didactic education will anchor fellows' experiences in theoretical and practical knowledge that will be relevant to their subsequent corrections and health system roles. Local, regional, and/or national educational programming will introduce fellows to foundational concepts of correctional medicine and other relevant disciplines. Fellowship programs may also include Master's degreelevel coursework, research, project-based learning, certificates, or other components that emphasize the improvement of health and health care in prisons, jails, and other carceral facilities.

B. Body of Knowledge

310

311 "[There is] a body of knowledge underlying the proposed fellowship that is (i) distinct
312 from other areas in which accreditation is already offered, and (ii) sufficient for providing
313 educational experiences that promote the integration of clinical, administrative, and
314 leadership competencies that address the broad system-based needs of health care
315 environments." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section 12.30.b)

316

The multidisciplinary field of correctional medicine is based on a distinct body of knowledge that integrates clinical, administrative, and leadership competencies that address the systems-based health and health care needs of incarcerated people. While physicians in this field engage in the provision of primary, emergency, and preventive care, correctional medicine requires the ability to ensure that the full scope of patients' health needs are addressed in complex environments and situations that are unlike those commonly encountered in another accredited GME program.

324

325 Few opportunities exist for residents and fellows to participate in correctional medicine rotations. 326 Some elements of experiential learning in correctional medicine are currently included as minor 327 curricular components of a small number of ACGME-accredited specialties. Specialized elective 328 rotations in ACGME-accredited family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, 329 and psychiatry residency programs are examples of GME that may incorporate some of the 330 relevant knowledge areas. However, correctional medicine is not a principal focus of any 331 ACGME-accredited specialty or subspecialty, and it has been recognized that this is a distinct area of opportunity for formal GME.^{31,32} The underlying focus areas of correctional medicine will 332 333 include:

- 334
 335 Situational and organizational demands of patient care practice and referrals inside prisons, jails, and detention facilities, related to:
- 337 o primary care 338 o chronic illness management 339 emergent health issues, including those resulting from violence or self-injury 0 340 mental illness 0 341 SUDs 0 342 care of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities 0 343 psychosocial and behavioral issues 0 344 infectious disease 0 345 0 wound care 346 0 preventive care 347 • women's health 348 transgender health 349 child and adolescent health 0 350 environmental health 0 351 suicide prevention
 - Skills in care management for incarcerated people

353		 mental health and addiction treatment services
354		 transition support for community re-entry
355		 transfers for inpatient care
356		 transfers to other correctional facilities
357		o dental care
358		 trauma-informed care
359		 hospice and end-of-life care
360		 patient functional assessment
361		 patient engagement
362		 health care proxies and advance directives
363		o treatment in enhanced or specialized restraint situations (e.g., isolation, physical
364		restraints, pregnancy)
365	٠	Health resource management within correctional facilities
366		 budget management
367		 health care finance
368		 health care workforce and staffing
369		 medical supplies procurement
370		 evaluations and accommodations for disabilities
371		 assurance of appropriate nutrition resources
372		 assurance of appropriate hygiene resources
373		 assurance of appropriate exercise resources
374		 occupational health clearances
375	٠	Administration of health services in correctional settings
376		 compliance with policies, procedures, laws, regulations, and consent decrees
377		 human resources in corrections
378		 medical records documentation and management
379	٠	Medication management specific to correctional settings
380		 medication administration
381		o formulary
382		o drug diversion
383	٠	Interpersonal and communication skills in correctional settings
384		 patients and families
385		 interprofessional care teams, including correctional facility staff members
386		 outside health care facilities and services (e.g., hospital and laboratory staff)
387		 law enforcement, legal, and judicial processes
388	٠	Ensuring and improving patient safety
389	٠	Occupational safety in correctional settings, including safety protocols
390	٠	Health care ethics in carceral settings
391		 dual loyalty of health care professionals
392		 custody issues and patient autonomy
393		 patients' rights
394		 care of people sentenced to death
395		 research ethics
396		 use of restraints and administrative segregation

397	 Selected focus areas in population health and social drivers of health for incarcerated 	
398	populations	
399	 structural and social health and health care inequities, including but not limited to: 	
400	 race and ethnicity 	
401	 socioeconomic status 	
402	 LGBTQ 	
403	 aging in correctional facilities 	
404	 social isolation and separation from community and family 	
405	 epidemiology and disease outbreaks relevant to carceral settings 	
406	 public health data collection and management relevant to carceral settings 	
407	 Structural competence and cultural humility 	
408	Historical, legal, political, social, and economic contexts of correctional systems and	
409	mass incarceration	
410	Advocacy in correctional and health policy	
411	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
412	Representing essential knowledge in correctional medicine, these focus areas will help to define	
413	fellows' attainment of competence as they prepare for unsupervised clinical practice in prisons,	
414		
415		
416	medicine fellowships. ³³ The fellowship's foundation in systems-based education distinguishes it	
417	from specialty-based education, in that it requires setting-specific experience incorporating	
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419		
420	A selected bibliography of works relevant to physician education in correctional medicine is	
421		
422		
423	C. Physician Workforce	
424		
425	"[There is a] need for a sufficiently large group of physicians to apply the knowledge and	
426	skills of the proposed fellowship in their health care environments." (ACGME Policies	
427		
428		
429	It is estimated that there are 1,668 prisons; 2,932 jails; 1,510 juvenile correctional facilities; and	
430	186 immigration detention centers in the US. ³⁴ It is estimated that more than 1,000 physicians	
431	practice primarily in these settings, and available workforce information points to a need for	
432	additional physicians to provide health care services for millions of incarcerated people. For the	
752	additional physicians to provide nearth care services for minions of incarcerated people. For the	

developed.³⁸ Sponsoring Institutions may seek to form relationships with agencies responsible

US general population, there are 2.6 physicians per 1,000 people;³⁵ state prison systems, for

example, may employ 1.0 physicians or fewer per 1,000 incarcerated people.^{36,37} Physicians

jurisdictional authorities actively engage in workforce planning to recruit physicians who are

interested in practicing correctional medicine, and educational opportunities such as GME

programs have been identified as an essential pathway into the field that should be further

who practice in carceral settings vary in their qualifications and professional experience. Many

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439

440 for the health of people who are incarcerated to develop workforce pathways through the

- 441 development of accredited correctional medicine fellowships.
- 442

443 While the Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine will provide 444 preparation to work in a range of facilities and with different incarcerated or detained 445 populations, there exists a common set of knowledge and skills that all correctional medicine 446 physicians must possess to provide safe and effective care. The fellowship will provide the 447 educational foundation for competent practice in the various environments that provide care for 448 people who are incarcerated or detained, and may offer opportunities for learning to care for 449 patients in specialized facilities. Fellows will be prepared to function as leaders in these health 450 care environments as they manage and collaborate with health care teams that may include 451 nurses, mental health providers, technicians, and others.

452

453 D. Professional Societies

- 454
 455 "[There are] national medical or medical-related societies with substantial physician
 456 membership, and with a principal interest in the proposed fellowship." (ACGME Policies
 457 and Procedures, Section 12.30.d)
- 458

459 The American College of Correctional Physicians (ACCP) and the Academic Consortium on 460 Criminal Justice Health (ACCJH) have been identified as two professional societies with 461 substantial physician membership and with a principal interest in the proposed fellowship. In 462 addition to professional societies, there are other organizations that collaborate with physicians 463 in the field of correctional medicine. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care 464 (NCCHC) and the American Correctional Association (ACA) provide accreditation for 465 correctional facilities and maintain standards for correctional health care. The NCCHC and the 466 AOA also provide professional certification for physicians in correctional settings.

467

The ACCP, formerly known as the Society of Correctional Physicians, is a membership

- 469 organization that was founded in 1992 to provide representation, advocacy, and a
- 470 communication forum for correctional medicine physicians.³⁹ In addition to hosting an annual
- 471 educational conference and other educational events, the ACCP coordinates publications,
- 472 awards, and other resources.
- 473
- 474 Also a membership organization, the ACCJH organizes regular conferences and educational
- 475 activities. Its membership includes physicians, other health care professionals, and researchers,
- and its activities focus on the advancement of health care in corrections through collaboration,
 education, and research. Organizational sponsors include UMass Chan Medical School, Jacob
- education, and research. Organizational sponsors include UMass Chan Medical School, Jacob
 & Valeria Langeloth Foundation, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National
- 479 Institutes of Health.⁴⁰
- 480
- 481 The AOA offers subspecialty certification in correctional medicine for physicians according to
- 482 requirements and an examination administered by the American Osteopathic Conjoint
- 483 Correctional Medicine Examination Committee.⁴¹

- 485 The NCCHC administers voluntary accreditation processes for jails, prisons, juvenile
- 486 confinement facilities, and correctional facilities that provide mental health services or opioid
- 487 treatment programs, based on minimum standards for providing appropriate health care for
- 488 incarcerated people. NCCHC offers multiple types of professional certification in correctional
- 489 health. There is a credential available exclusively to physicians (CCHP-P) that is granted on the
- basis of an examination, along with credentials available to nurses, mental health professionals,
- 491 and others.⁴²
- 492

The ACA provides accreditation of facilities based on operational standards for adult, juvenile,
and community corrections, with the goal of enhancing the quality of correctional practices for
incarcerated people, staff members, and the public. Standards have been developed for more
than 25 operational focus areas, including health care in prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities.
The ACA provides professional certification for corrections staff, including some specialized
certifications for non-physician health care professionals.⁴³

499

500 Correctional medicine physicians work within interprofessional teams that may include roles for 501 a variety of health professionals. There may be opportunities to collaborate with accrediting 502 organizations for other health professions education that are interested in addressing workforce 503 needs within prisons, jails, and other carceral settings.

- 504
- 505

E. Educational Programs and Research Activities

506 507

508

"[There are] academic units or health care organizations of educational programs and research activities such that there is national interest in establishing fellowship programs." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section 12.30.e)

509 510

511 There are existing educational and research activities that demonstrate academic interest in 512 establishing fellowship accreditation at a national level. At present, there are examples of short-513 term clinical experiences in prisons and jails for residents. These experiences have various 514 clinical foci and do not include long-term clinical exposure to correctional systems. The 515 accreditation designation of a Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine 516 would provide an important advancement in supporting a standardized approach to GME in 517 corrections, and in creating the structure needed to optimize available learning resources that 518 support the development of physicians who can effectively address the health needs of 519 incarcerated individuals.

520

521 Prior to the transition to a single GME accreditation system under the ACGME, the AOA 522 established basic standards of education and training for physicians and approved fellowship 523 programs in correctional medicine.⁴⁴ In total, 14 physicians have achieved AOA board 524 certification in correctional medicine. One formerly AOA-approved fellowship program in 525 correctional medicine at Nova Southeastern University was notable for having achieved 526 sustainability in educating multiple fellows under the leadership of the late Dr. Dianne Rechtine. 527 528 An online, interdisciplinary Master's degree program in correctional health administration at the

- 529 George Washington University was identified.⁴⁵ Other Master's degree programs (e.g.,
- 530 programs in public health and public administration) provide opportunities for education and
- research related to correctional health systems. Participants interviewed in the preliminary
 assessment described informal correctional medicine curricula used by health care
- 533 organizations, as well as national conferences, seminars, and other educational activities.
- 534 Membership organizations, such as NCCHC and ACCJH, provide educational offerings
- 535 including annual conferences, brief intensive courses, and informal educational programs that
- vary in scope and content. ACCJH provides educational programming that focuses on health
 research in corrections.
- 538

539 Participants interviewed in the preliminary assessment described limited existing educational 540 opportunities addressing a broad range of knowledge and practice in correctional medicine. 541 Several participants indicated that their institutions offered some limited exposure to residents 542 and/or medical students through elective rotations in a local correctional setting, or in an 543 inpatient setting that on occasion provides care for incarcerated patients. However, exposure 544 was limited to isolated (block) experiences and longitudinal educational experiences were non-545 existent, with the exception of fellowships formerly approved by the AOA. Some participants 546 identified current opportunities for experiential learning in correctional medicine that are 547 organized within clinical departments by way of specialty-specific rotations in their organization. 548 For example, the University of Texas Medical Branch provides health care for the state's adult 549 and juvenile correctional facilities and is a notable system that educates and trains residents 550 and fellows in the care of incarcerated persons. Such experiences were uncommon. Most 551 participants reported that specialty-specific education was limited to diagnostic and treatment 552 decisions in community-based health care settings and did not provide sufficient exposure for 553 the attainment of competence in providing care within correctional systems. 554

- 555 The absence of a commonly defined structure for GME in correctional medicine has limited 556 organizations' ability to recruit, educate, train, and retain physicians in an efficient or consistent 557 manner. Accreditation of the correctional medicine fellowship will be designed to facilitate long-558 term, structured clinical education in multiple carceral settings, which will provide opportunities 559 for physicians to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for practice. Sponsoring 560 Institutions with correctional medicine fellowships will be expected to provide opportunities for 561 interprofessional collaboration, learning, and leadership. If a Sponsoring Institution offers related 562 programs that are available for multiple professions, coordination of the correctional medicine 563 fellowship with other programs will be encouraged.
- 564

In April 2022, ACGME staff members surveyed DIOs (n=106) in a poll after presenting an overview of the proposed Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine during a scheduled video conference meeting (Attachment 3). Forty-nine of the DIO survey respondents (46%) reported that their Sponsoring Institutions have one or more clinical learning environments serving incarcerated patients. Eighteen respondents (17%) reported that their Sponsoring Institutions had an academic unit or health care organizational partner that currently

571 offers some type of education and training for physicians in correctional medicine.

573 F. **Projected Number of Programs**

574 575

576

"[The] projected number of programs [is] sufficient to ensure that ACGME accreditation is an effective method for quality evaluation, including current and projected numbers of fellowship programs." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section 12.30.f)

577 578

579 As there has been no previous survey of the GME community regarding correctional medicine, 580 ACGME staff members conducted a survey of DIOs in April 2022 (n=106; see Attachment 3). In 581 that survey, most respondents (53%) indicated that their Sponsoring Institutions would benefit 582 from having education and training opportunities for physicians in caring for incarcerated 583 patients. When asked to estimate their Sponsoring Institution's level of interest in the fellowship, 584 8% of DIOs replied "very interested," 26% "moderately interested," and 34% "a little interested." 585

586 There are 874 ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institutions, and the DIO survey suggested that 587 some Sponsoring Institutions perceive there is potential for educating and training physicians in 588 correctional medicine. Considering early interest in the fellowship and the availability of 589 institutional resources, it is estimated that at least 10 fellowship programs will achieve 590 accreditation within five years.

591 592

G. **Fellowship Duration**

593 594

"The duration of the Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship programs is at least one year." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section 12.30.g)

595 596

597 Sponsoring Institution-based fellowships in correctional medicine should be configured in either 598 a one- or two-year format. The duration of the program should be one year to provide an 599 opportunity to achieve general competence to practice medicine in prisons and jails. A two-year 600 program format will allow for the attainment of general competence, as well as opportunities for 601 in-depth learning through elective experiences, which may include learning to care for special 602 populations or developing competence in leadership and administration, research, and/or 603 completion of a Master's degree (e.g., MPH, MPA, MHSA).

604 605

Н. Fellowship Eligibility

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607

608

"Physicians who have completed a residency program in a core specialty designated for accreditation by ACGME are eligible to enter Sponsoring Institution-based fellowships." (ACGME Policies and Procedures, Section 12.30.h)

609 610

611 Completion of a residency program in any core specialty designated for ACGME accreditation

612 should be required for a physician to enter a Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship program in

613 correctional medicine. A fellowship program should ensure that physician leaders across

- 614 medical specialties are eligible for appointment, provided that ongoing clinical practice
- 615 opportunities in the core specialty are available to fellows while they are appointed to the

practices that focus on mission-driven, ongoing, systematic recruitment and retention of a 618 diverse and inclusive workforce of fellows, faculty members, senior administrative staff

program. A fellowship program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must engage in

619 members, and other relevant members of its academic community.

620

621 **Experiential Education** Ι.

- 622
- 623 624

"The educational program of the fellowship is primarily experiential." (ACGME Policies and Procedures. Section 12.30.i)

625 626 The curriculum for a fellowship in correctional medicine should consist primarily of experiential 627 learning. Fellows should participate in clinical and administrative rotations in at least two 628 correctional settings, including a minimum of one prison and one jail. These settings should 629 provide experience in addressing the full scope of acute and chronic medical and mental health 630 issues of patients. Fellows should learn to administratively manage care through exposure to 631 systems components that are critically important for care and health outcomes in corrections, 632 including intake, transfers to and from correctional and health care facilities, community 633 supervision, and transition services for community re-entry.

- 634 Educational experiences in correctional medicine are distinct from those in other graduate 635 medical education programs because of differences in patient populations, service delivery 636 models, and environments for practice. Physicians in carceral settings care for patients who are 637 poorer and sicker than the general population, who are generally prohibited from receiving 638 assistance through Medicaid and other public programs while incarcerated, and for whom 639 private insurance plays a limited role.^{46,47} Many patients have not received prior care and may 640 be likely to require medical interventions for acute or chronic medical issues. There is a routine
- 641 need for physicians to recognize and address SUDs and mental illnesses, which are highly
- 642 prevalent among incarcerated patients.
- 643

644 The competent practice of medicine in prisons, jails, and other detention facilities requires 645 physicians to participate in and lead efforts to diminish inequities in health and health care. 646 Fellows should develop an understanding of relevant social, criminal justice, and health policy 647 issues, and consciousness of the structural conditions for incarceration and its effects on the 648 health of people who are incarcerated or detained.

649

650 Health service delivery systems in prisons, jails, and detention centers have different decision-651 making and oversight structures and processes from care provided outside these settings; few 652 of the oversight and regulatory processes that govern health care services pertain in carceral 653 settings. In many care activities, physicians draw upon skills that are needed to provide an 654 appropriate standard of care while meeting the demands of their profession and working within 655 correctional system requirements, governance structures, and decision-making processes. 656 Physicians adapt to highly variable and setting-specific medical records systems and function 657 within different formularies and medication administration protocols. To provide appropriate 658 care, physicians must navigate consent and custody issues, which often have ethical 659 implications. Physicians play a vital role in maintaining patients' health while incarcerated, and

in preparing patients for release, and should be able to facilitate the provision of transitional
 services that enhance social support and continuity of care, and ensure the receipt of health promoting benefits.

663

During the fellowship, fellows should have rotation experience in the administration of health
 care in corrections, to include resource management, budgeting, leadership, regulatory
 processes, and quality improvement. In these rotations, fellows will participate in the activities of
 leadership teams under the mentorship and supervision of physicians within correctional health
 systems. Fellows will also have progressive responsibility for day-to-day management
 responsibilities through focused experiences within correctional systems, and responsibility for
 collaboration with individuals with administrative leadership responsibility in prisons and jails.

671

672 The ACGME should set standards that determine appropriate learning environments for 673 experiences in correctional medicine. Clinical learning environments for the fellowship can 674 provide experience in federal, state, county, municipal, tribal, or other jurisdictions. Experience 675 in immigration detention centers, health care for women, health care for transgender individuals, 676 and juvenile detention centers may provide opportunities for fellows to develop competence in 677 providing care in specialized settings. Fellowship experiences may occur in hospitals, clinics, 678 and community-based care sites where care is provided to currently or previously incarcerated 679 people. Observational and/or administrative experience may be obtained in courts, agencies, or 680 organizations responsible for community supervision or transition services, and other 681 educational sites.

682

683 The program director, through mentorship and supervision, should ensure that fellow 684 experiences contribute to the attainment of competence in correctional medicine. The program 685 director and core physician faculty members should possess specialty or subspecialty 686 certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the 687 AOA. In the aggregate, physician faculty members should have expertise in primary and 688 emergency care, as well as behavioral health, addiction treatment, women's health, and 689 pediatric and adolescent health. Programs must prepare fellows to function within interprofessional teams, and may engage interprofessional team members that could include 690 691 nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, case managers, social workers, 692 physical therapists, dentists, hygienists, psychologists and other mental health professionals, nutritionists, and others. 693

694

Occupational safety in prisons and jails should be emphasized in fellows' educational
experiences. This should be accomplished through direct supervision and progressive
autonomy of fellows, which may rely on program director and faculty mentorship, as well as
peer support systems. Particular attention should be paid to orienting fellows to site-specific
safety issues, and rotational safety when transitioning between educational experiences at
participating sites.

701

Protected time to attend a regularly scheduled, moderated, peer supervision group with skilledfacilitation for fellows across all fellowships should be incorporated into each fellow's

experience. The purpose of such a group would be tri-fold: to develop a network of colleagues;
to learn alternate approaches to complex care from different systems; and to provide a safe
space in which to process the challenges – emotional, physical, ethical, and others – that may
arise during this work.

708

709 At the beginning of rotation experiences in prisons, jails, and other carceral settings, fellows 710 should be provided with a thorough introduction to workforce safety-related policies and 711 protocols, including rules for interacting with patients, security and safety systems, incident 712 reporting, communications protocols, work attire regulations, and restrictions on materials to 713 avoid unintended use by patients. Fellows should receive training in situational and 714 environmental awareness, including assessing and mitigating risks, responding to and de-715 escalating situations, requesting help, and using basic self-defense tactics. Faculty members 716 should guide fellows regarding limits to disclosure of personal information to patients and 717 access to information about the care they are receiving. Programs must have systems and 718 education in place addressing physical and mental workplace injury, including assault, 719 harassment, and psychological trauma. Fellows should be trained in infection control and 720 exposure to controlled substances in correctional settings.

721

722 Lectures, workshops, and journal clubs utilizing remote communities of learning (e.g., ECHO 723 model⁴⁸) may provide important support for the scholarly environment in fellowship programs. 724 Scholarly activity and research projects may be linked to the goals and objectives of rotation 725 experiences and should be aligned with individual fellows' interests. For fellowship programs 726 following the two-year format, there should be flexibility to meet some ACGME requirements for 727 experiential and didactic education through fellows' participation in degree- or certificate-728 granting activities. In determining the potential role for degree-granting programs (e.g., MPH, 729 MHA, MPA) in fellowships, Sponsoring Institutions should consider the time needed to pursue a 730 degree; the rigidity/flexibility of curriculum; the opportunity cost to experiential learning; the 731 difficulty of completing a Master's degree in a one-year fellowship format; and the variability of 732 focus on physician learning in Master's degree programs. With respect to certificate-granting 733 programs, Sponsoring Institutions should consider the potential for standardization of program 734 structure; consistency with core knowledge, skills, attitudes, and exposures of the fellowship; 735 and the enhancement of scholarly activity. The integration of degree- or certificate-granting 736 activities with the fellowship program may be facilitated by institutional partnerships with other 737 organizations (e.g., schools or medicine or public health). 738

- Achievement of competence in the fellowship will be measured with reference to the goals and
 objectives of these experiences. Fellows should be evaluated no less frequently than every
 three months using objective, competency- and Milestone-based performance evaluations
 based on feedback from multiple sources.
- 743

744 IV. Guidance for Implementation of the Sponsoring Institution-Based Fellowship

746 A. Accessibility of Accreditation to Sponsoring Institutions

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745

748 Any ACGME-accredited Sponsoring Institution should be eligible to sponsor a fellowship in 749 correctional medicine. The ACGME accreditation model for fellowships in correctional medicine 750 should:

- 751 account for variability and adaptivity of types of settings, resource availability, and 752 • 753 experiential learning opportunities; 754 anticipate that faculty members and mentors representing multiple professions may 755 be involved in the supervision and education of fellows; 756 facilitate networking of programs and individuals in Sponsoring Institutions with 757 shared interests; 758 permit the appropriate and effective use of shared educational resources, and 759 technology for distance education; 760 enable the local definition of career paths in correctional medicine that prioritize the • 761
- needs of underserved areas/populations; and, 762
 - emphasize the importance of community engagement. •
- 764 Β. **Ongoing Clinical Practice**

766 Fellows in correctional medicine should have opportunities to pursue ongoing clinical practice in 767 their primary specialty and/or subspecialty while completing the program. While responsibilities 768 for direct care for patients who have not experienced incarceration are outside the scope of the 769 fellowship, fellows' engagement in this practice may facilitate their continued professional 770 development as clinicians.

771

763

765

772 Under current ACGME requirements for subspecialty fellowship programs, ACGME Review 773 Committees may allow fellows to engage in unsupervised practice in their primary specialties.⁴⁹ 774 This option should be studied for adaptation in the Program Requirements for the Sponsoring

775 Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine. In the accreditation of fellowship programs, 776 the ACGME should ensure that fellows' ongoing clinical practice obligations are appropriately

- 777 balanced with their fellowship education. This will require Sponsoring Institutions and their
- 778 fellowship programs to provide some oversight of ongoing clinical practice and its effects on 779 fellows' participation in their programs.
- 780

781 Correctional medicine programs will be expected to ensure that fellows have adequate time to 782 complete their responsibilities in the fellowship. When determining appropriate specifications for 783 ongoing clinical practice in the Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship, the ACGME should 784 consider the Common Program Requirements (Fellowship), which restrict fellows' time in 785 independent practice. The expectation would be that ongoing clinical practice would not exceed

- 786 50 percent of fellows' working time.
- 787
- 788 Because it is external to the correctional medicine fellowship, ongoing clinical practice in a
- 789 fellow's primary specialty or subspecialty should be optional for the fellow. In developing its
- 790 accreditation guidance for the fellowship, the ACGME should address the potential for
- 791 physicians' part-time participation in Sponsoring Institution-based fellowships, which may extend

792 physicians' time in the program and may be compatible with certain options for ongoing clinical 793 practice.

- 794
- 795 C. Internal Development Grant to Support Fellowship Accreditation 796
- 797 In September 2021, the ACGME Board of Directors approved staff recommendations to develop 798 this accreditation designation proposal based on the preliminary assessment of accreditation 799 opportunities in correctional medicine. At that time, the Board indicated that the proposal should 800 include specifications for an internal development grant of up to four years to develop this new 801 type of fellowship through enhanced outreach and collaboration.
- 802

803 Through this internal grant, the ACGME should study opportunities and challenges for 804 fellowships in correctional medicine as the basis for further development of fellowship 805 accreditation, collaboration with other organizations, and education and outreach activities for 806 Sponsoring Institutions. GME programs in correctional medicine will differ from other ACGME-807 accredited programs in learning experiences that are specific to the care delivery models and 808 clinical learning environments in carceral settings. These differences should be further explored 809 in the ACGME's outreach and collaboration efforts, and foci may include, but not be limited to: 810

- 811 systems supporting safety, quality, and risk management; 812
 - institutional partnerships and affiliations with participating sites;
 - institutional collaboration in curriculum development and delivery;
 - program director and faculty development; •
 - fellow credentialing and onboarding processes;
 - fellow transitions between rotation sites; and,
 - policy and legislative contexts for health care/education financing. •
- 817 818

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816

819 In addition to these activities, the grant should support the exploration of opportunities for 820 specialty and subspecialty GME to educate and train physicians in providing health care for 821 currently and formerly incarcerated people outside of carceral settings. This exploration should 822 consider ways in which residents and fellows may be involved in optimizing community health 823 outcomes, such as participation in health interventions intended to prevent incarceration and to 824 enhance social and family support for incarcerated people.

825

826 In planning and implementing the outreach and collaboration activities supported by the internal 827 grant, the ACGME Department of Sponsoring Institutions and Clinical Learning Environment 828 Programs should ensure they are separated from program review processes to avoid conflicts 829 of interest in fellowship accreditation. The activities should focus on shared learning and 830 engagement that includes Sponsoring Institutions, organizations interested in the improvement 831 of health care and population health, and ACGME staff members.

- 832
- 833 D. **Fellowship Accreditation Process**
- 834

- 835 Responsibility for accreditation decisions will be assigned to the ACGME Institutional Review
- 836 Committee, which will ensure the inclusion of expertise necessary to provide peer review
- 837 evaluation of Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship programs in correctional medicine. The
- ACGME Board's delegation of accreditation authority for the fellowship may necessitate the
- addition of accreditation functions to the existing Institutional Review Committee, which may
- 840 include augmentation of the Review Committee for functions related to the review of correctional
- 841 medicine fellowship programs.
- 842
- 843 The Department of Sponsoring Institutions and Clinical Learning Environment Programs, in
- collaboration with other ACGME departments, will be responsible for the implementation of the
- 845 Sponsoring Institution-based fellowship in correctional medicine, including the development of
- 846 Program Requirements and accreditation processes, at the direction of the ACGME's Board of
- 847 Directors and President and Chief Executive Officer, and in accordance with ACGME Policies
- 848 and Procedures.
- 849

Attachment 1

Advisory Group Members		
Name	Title	
Donald M. Berwick, MD (Advisory Group Co-Chair)	President Emeritus and Senior Fellow Institute for Health care Improvement	
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Attachment 2

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Attachment 3

DIO Poll Results (n=106)

0-2	(23) 22%
3-19	(40) 38%
20-59	(24) 23%
60+	(19) 18%

1. How many ACGME-accredited programs does your Sponsoring Institution have?

2. Do you have one or more clinical learning environments that serve incarcerated patients?

Yes	(49) 46%
No	(53) 50%
Don't know	(4) 4%

3. Does your sponsoring institution have an academic unit or healthcare organizational partner that currently offers some type of training for physicians in correctional medicine?

Yes	(18) 17%
Νο	(80) 75%
Don't know	(8) 8%

4. Would your sponsoring institution benefit from having training opportunities for physicians in caring for incarcerated patients?

Yes	(56) 53%
No	(15) 14%
Don't know	(35) 33%

5. If your sponsoring institution had resources available, what do you believe the level of interest would be in having an ACGME-accredited fellowship in correctional medicine?

Very interested	(8) 8%
Moderately interested	(28) 26%
A little interested	(36) 34%
Not interested	(19) 18%
Uncertain	(14) 13%

6. What is the role in which you were invited to this call?

DIO	(103) 97%
Institutional Coordinator	(2) 2%
Other	(1) 1%

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