Policies and Procedures

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the GMEC approval process and the type of oversight that the GMEC has on any non-accredited training programs for physicians.

SCOPE

The policy applies to all Creighton University residents, fellows and their respective training programs.

DEFINITIONS

- **Graduate Medical Education:** The period of didactic and clinical education in a medical specialty which follows the completion of a recognized undergraduate medical education and which prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in that specialty, also referred to as residency education. The term ‘graduate medical education’ also applies to the period of didactic and clinical education in a medical subspecialty which follows the completion of education in a recognized medical specialty and which prepares physicians for the independent practice of medicine in that subspecialty.

- **Non Accredited Programs:** Post graduate training programs for physicians that are not recognized by the ACGME.

POLICY

Clinical departments may offer training to resident physicians in a specialty area that is outside of the oversight of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Non ACGME accredited training programs fall into two types.

First are those that are accredited or overseen by a recognized specialty board or society that provides standards for the curriculum and training experiences.

The second type of training program is one where there is not an accreditation process or set of standards that is overseen by a recognized specialty board or sponsoring medical specialty society. GME requirements for both situations are outlined below:

**Accredited GME programs not overseen by the ACGME**
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The College of Medicine will sponsor selected GME programs that are accredited or overseen by a recognized specialty board or professional association that provides standards for a structured curriculum and set of training experiences. All such programs must be approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee. Each program is expected to follow all GME policies and procedures of the College of Medicine including, but not limited to, College of Medicine GME Eligibility Requirements, policy on duty hours, and moonlighting. Each program must maintain an appropriately credentialed program director, stable funding, an explicit and well-defined curriculum, and fully developed supervisory and administrative policies consistent with all other College of Medicine GME programs. Evaluation and promotion of residents must also follow standards consistent with all other College of Medicine GME programs. All participants are required to have formal Resident Agreements that outline the responsibilities of both the resident and the College. The Office of Graduate Medical Education will not be able to sponsor participants under a visa status.

Note: In order to maintain sponsorship by the College of Medicine, these programs must remain in good standing with College of Medicine Policies and Procedures and do the following:

1. Provide an up to date letter from the recognized specialty board or professional association that shows the program to be in good standing with meeting the requirements of accreditation. This letter must be provided to the Office of GME as soon as it becomes available and must clearly indicate the standing of the program and the period of accreditation that has been granted by the oversight body.

Non-Accredited Graduate Medical Education Training:

In order to sponsor graduate medical education programs where there is no formal oversight body, a clinical department has two choices. First, the department may elect to formally request that a residency program be approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) of the College of Medicine and function as an approved but non-accredited residency program under GME. Secondly, the department may offer a course of additional training without developing a formal program. The following outlines the arrangement:

1. **College of Medicine Sponsored Non-Accredited Residency Program**

   This type program is considered a formal residency program under the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Office and the GMEC. It is expected to meet all standards of accredited GME programs including a designated program director, stable funding that is guaranteed under a contract and approved by the College of Medicine legal department, an explicit and well-defined curriculum, and fully developed supervisory and administrative policies consistent with all other College of Medicine GME programs. Evaluation and promotion of residents must also follow standards
consistent with all other College of Medicine GME programs.

To maintain sponsorship, the parent program must be in good standing with any associated professional societies. If the responsible department has other fully accredited programs, these must also be in good standing with those accrediting bodies. Oversight of program standards will be done through periodic Annual Program Evaluations by the GMEC on a cycle of once a year.

Trainees will be considered employees of the College of Medicine and will be assigned a contract through GME similar to all other residents. They will be afforded the same rights and privileges and held to the same standards of conduct as all other residents as outlined in the Resident Handbook.

Formal GMEC approval of a non-accredited residency program is required, and the development of such a program must follow procedures outlined by the Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education. The program director must attend the monthly GMEC meetings after the new training program begins.

2. Additional Training

This arrangement occurs when a clinical department elects not to pursue development and maintenance of a formal non-accredited residency program as outlined above but still offers additional training to qualified professionals in a particular specialty. In this case, additional training should only be offered to individuals qualified to become faculty and should be only for a set period of time. Such training cannot be offered if a formally accredited residency program is already in place for this particular specialty. The individual would be given an appointment as clinical instructor through the sponsoring department with the contractual arrangements set by the department. This arrangement would also require credentialing by all appropriate credentialing bodies for locations where the work and training would occur.

The sponsoring department must send a letter to the GME Office providing it with the name(s) of individual(s) receiving additional training. It needs to be approved by the GMEC to ensure it does not impact other learners. At the end of the period of training, the individual would be eligible for a College of Medicine certificate of additional training for the period of time completed. Verification of training will be done by the sponsoring department.

All departments providing additional training opportunities must assure that the number of learners and the work done by them does not dilute the required experience of learners in the accredited and non-accredited residency programs sponsored by the department.
**REFERENCES**

ACGME

**AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF THIS POLICY**

Creighton University reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate this policy at any time.