GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

TRAINEE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICY: OVERSIGHT OF NON-ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIPS
Policy Number 14.9
Chapter: Non-accredited Fellowships

Purpose:

Establish the oversight of, as well as set processes to create and maintain, University of Utah Health advanced subspecialty fellowship programs for which there is currently no Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation or American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board certification available. Those attracted to these training experiences are often established, mid-career, board eligible/certified in a primary specialty physicians.

Definitions:

A. Definition of Non-Standard Training

Those subspecialties or training pathways for which neither Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accreditation or American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board certification is available. The non-standard provision was designed to support advanced training opportunities that have a pre-defined training curriculum and duration. Such programs must be recognized by the respective ABMS-member board and the host institution’s Graduate Medical Education Committee. NOTE: All applications for Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) J-1 Visa sponsorship in non-ACGME accredited programs, including subspecialty fellowships previously certified by an ABMS-member board, are considered “non-standard applications” by the ECFMG and must adhere to the guidelines for non-standard clinical training programs.

1. Non-accredited GME Fellowships: Programs who fall under the auspices of the GMEC, whose fellows are credentialled by the Office of Graduate Medical Education, and who qualify for reduced liability premiums under the Malpractice Fellow Premium Policy, 6.5.

2. Non-accredited Visiting Faculty Fellowships: Programs whose fellows are credentialled by the Medical Staff Office, hired as Visiting Faculty, do not qualify for reduced liability premiums under the Malpractice Fellow Premium Policy, 6.5, and are not governed by this policy.
B. Current member board recognized non-standard disciplines may be found at https://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/nonstandard-subspecialty-disciplines.html.

C. MedHub: Web-based resident data management system.

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Policy:

A. Maintain the GMEC’s role in oversight of educational programs for all postgraduate clinical training for physicians within the School of Medicine and affiliated institutions.

B. Recognize and accommodate the ability of selected clinical fellows to independently provide clinical services within the scope of their primary specialty certification for each program subject to this policy.

C. Non-accredited GME fellowship programs may allow individual trainees to assume junior faculty status and perform billable duties commensurate with those of a faculty member within the scope of their primary discipline, concurrent with their advanced training.

   1. These programs will be conducted directly by the responsible academic department, but subject to GMEC oversight.

   2. Non-accredited GME fellowships are a minimum of 12 months in length. Fellowships shorter than 12 months will fall under A(2) above as Visiting Faculty Fellowships with Medical Staff Office oversight.

   3. The guiding principle for establishing a non-accredited GME fellowship program must be that such a program shall provide an educational experience of comparable quality to other GME programs while in no way interfering with, or detracting from, the training of residents and fellows in other GME programs.

   4. While functioning as subspecialty fellows, these physicians are required to be supervised at all times by a qualified member of the medical staff, appointed by the fellowship Director.

   5. Each academic department will credential fellows in non-accredited programs as attending medical staff in accordance with School of Medicine Medical Staff Office policies and procedures, as well as GME Policies 5.1, 6.5, and 14.2, as revised.

   6. Billing for clinical services may be submitted on behalf of the activity of trainees enrolled in non-accredited GME fellowship programs where the fellow is qualified to perform these services independently by virtue of prior certification within their primary discipline and provided such activity does not interfere with the educational requirements of the fellowship. Further determination of an individual fellow’s eligibility to bill for specific services is entirely the responsibility of the academic
department. No billing is permitted for services rendered by international medical graduates training on visas sponsored by ECFMG or with other limited visas.

D. Matters pertaining to the selection of trainees, their contract for duration of the training program and disciplinary and grievance processes shall be the responsibility of the academic department, according to applicable School of Medicine and/ or University Hospital standards. Fellows in non-accredited programs will receive stipends and benefits corresponding to the schedule established by the GMEC for all residents.

E. Fellows in non-accredited programs will be processed and credentialed by the GME Office in accordance with the Eligibility and Credentialing, Policy, 1.2, the same policies and procedures that apply to fellows in accredited programs.

F. All GME trainee agreements (contracts), including non-accredited fellowships, will be administered through MedHub, per the Resident Agreement Policy, 1.8.

G. For existing non-accredited programs, the GMEC must review and approve any changes in training complement, major changes in program length or structure, or appointment of new Program Directors.

H. Non-accredited fellowship programs wishing to train foreign medical graduates with J-1 Clinical Visa Sponsorship must adhere to the ECFMG policy regarding Application for J-1 Clinical Visa Sponsorship in Non-Standard Clinical Training Programs. All other visa types must be administered through the Office of General Counsel.

Procedure:

GMEC APPROVAL OF NON-ACCREDITED GME FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

A. An application packet for Non-Accredited fellowships is available on the GME Pulse website, https://pulse.utah.edu/site/GME/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx Applications for new non-accredited GME fellowship programs must comply with the Approving New Programs and Positions Policy, 14.2.

B. Programs seeking GMEC approval must comply with the Resident Agreement Policy, 1.8, regardless of any other MedHub use.

C. Non-accredited fellowships in specialty areas where ACGME accreditation is available will not be considered, but instead should obtain GMEC approval in order to submit an application to the appropriate ACGME Review Committee for review and approval.