Non-ACGME Accredited Fellowships

Policy Number: GME - 027          Version: 01
Effective Date: May 08, 2012

Description:
Formal post-residency clinical education (Fellowship) often occurs in programs accredited by the ACGME, but may also occur without ACGME recognition. Accreditation may or may not be available through a specialty board of the ABMS or a specialty society. Whether accredited by the ACGME or not, formal UC San Diego Fellowships should be subject to institutional oversight and applicable GME Academic Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines. Fellows are considered advanced clinical trainees and require an appropriate level of attending supervision commensurate with their skill level.

Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to provide institutional oversight and establish consistent educational standards for all formal post-residency clinical training programs at UC San Diego. Furthermore, trainees should be appointed to a GME title code, and be subject to applicable GME policies and procedures.

Scope:
This policy applies to all trainees in non-ACGME accredited clinical fellowships. This includes circumstances where an expectation is created that an individual will receive post-residency clinical training and education within a UC San Diego Health Sciences department, or if the term Fellowship is used to describe a post-residency clinical experience. If a program participates in a formal match process (for example the NRMP) the program must have GME oversight and this policy will apply. In the specific case of the NRMP, the DIO must attest that non-ACGME accredited fellowships are under the institution’s governance and that the institution has oversight responsibility.

Definitions:
ACGME: Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education
DIO: Designated Institutional Official
GMEC: Graduate Medical Education Committee
Non-ACGME accredited Fellowship: Formal post-residency education not accredited by the ACGME.

NRMP: National Resident Matching Program

POLICY:
A. All non-ACGME accredited fellowships must apply to the GMEC for approval. A fellowship description, educational goals and objectives for the fellowship, evaluation methods, as well as a formal training curriculum must be provided. The GMEC will evaluate the educational rationale for the program and if approved, will forward their recommendation to the GME Enrollment Committee for consideration.

B. Trainees in non-ACGME accredited fellowships will be appointed by the UC San Diego Associate Dean for GME.

C. Non-ACGME accredited fellowship programs, and trainees will be subject to relevant GME Academic Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines including but not limited to Due Process Guidelines, Criminal Background Checks, Management of Impaired Physicians and Drug Testing, Supervision, Extra Work for Extra Pay, Professional Behavior, Near Relatives, and Vacation/Leave policies.

D. By definition, fellows are trainees and require an appropriate level of attending supervision. Therefore, UC San Diego Health Sciences Departments cannot independently bill for services provided by fellows that fall within the fellowship curriculum and course and scope of fellowship training. At the program director’s discretion, fellows may be permitted to bill for services they provide for which they are board certified or board prepared subject to the provisions of applicable GME policies pertaining to extra work for extra pay (moonlighting).

E. Non-ACGME accredited fellowships will undergo periodic review by the GMEC.

References:
Office of GME Academic Policies, Procedures and Guidelines:
http://meded.ucsd.edu/gme/forms_and_notices/

Approval Dates:
GMEC Meeting April 11, 2012
CEP Meeting May 08, 2012

Contact Information:
Office of Graduate Medical Education; http://meded.ucsd.edu/gme/