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**New Specialty/Subspecialty Proposal Template**

***Proposals for new specialties/subspecialties must include an official letter from the requesting society or program director association, as well as approval from the corresponding board.*** *Proposals must address items A through H, listed below, per* [*ACGME Policies and Procedures*](https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/ab_ACGMEPoliciesProcedures.pdf)*.*

**Subject: 12.00 Procedures for Designation of Specialties, Subspecialties, and Sub-subspecialties for which Accreditation will be Offered**

**Section: 12.20 Criteria for Designation of a Subspecialty or Sub-Subspecialty for which Accreditation will be offered**

The ACGME accredits programs in subspecialties and sub-subspecialties when it can be demonstrated that the clinical care of patients and their safety will be improved through accreditation of education and training in that discipline.

Proposals for designation of a subspecialty or sub-subspecialty for which accreditation will be offered must provide documentation on the professional and scientific status of the new subspecialty or sub-subspecialty, including at minimum, evidence of the following:

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| 1. the clinical care and safety of patients will be improved through the recognition of the discipline |
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b) the existence of a body of scientific medical knowledge underlying the subspecialty or sub-subspecialty that is (i) clinically distinct from other areas in which accreditation is already offered, and (ii); sufficient for educating individuals in a clinical field, and not simply in one or more techniques

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1. the existence of a sufficiently large group of physicians who concentrate their practice in the proposed subspecialty or sub-subspecialty

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d) the existence of national medical societies with a principal interest in the proposed subspecialty or sub-subspecialty

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e) the regular presence in academic units and health care organizations of educational programs, research activities, and clinical services such that the subspecialty or sub-subspecialty is broadly available nationally

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f) a projected number of programs sufficient to ensure that ACGME accreditation is an effective method for quality evaluation, including current and projected numbers for each participating specialty if the subspecialty is multidisciplinary

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g) the duration of the subspecialty or sub-subspecialty program is at least one year beyond education in the primary (core) specialty

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h) the educational program is primarily clinical

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**Contact for questions and proposal submission**

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*Submit the proposal and any supporting documentation by email to* [*Jessalynn Watanabe*](mailto:jwatanabe@acgme.org)*.*

Upon receipt of a proposal for designation of a new subspecialty or sub-subspecialty, the proposal will be posted on the ACGME website for a 45-day period of public comment.

If the subspecialty is multidisciplinary, the ACGME Board will designate the Review Committees that will review programs in the subspecialty based on the projected numbers of programs by specialty and in accordance with Section 14.10 of the ACGME Manual of Policies and Procedures. For participating specialties not expected to reach the threshold of five programs within five years, programs must apply for accreditation to one of the designated Review Committees. If at any time in the future, there are five or more programs from a participating specialty that is not a designated Review Committee, that specialty Review Committee may be newly designated to review programs in that subspecialty.