

Frequently Asked Questions: Spinal Cord Injury Medicine
Review Committee for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
ACGME

Question	Answer
Institutions	
<p>How must the Sponsoring Institution provide opportunities for fellows' continuing medical education (CME)?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: I.A.3]</i></p>	<p>Opportunities for CME include stipends for and time off to attend national/regional educational conferences, or the provision of purchased books or other CME materials.</p>
<p>What circumstances would warrant exceptions for geographically distant participating sites?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: I.B.3]</i></p>	<p>A participating site offering clinical experiences that occur periodically and are not otherwise available at the primary clinical site is a suitable exception to the requirement limiting travel time to one hour or less.</p>
Program Personnel and Resources	
<p>Does the Review Committee have an expectation for the amount of time an individual should be an active faculty member before being appointed program director of a new or existing program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: II.A.2.a)]</i></p>	<p>The Review Committee recommends that individuals spend two years as a faculty member in an ACGME-accredited physical medicine and rehabilitation residency or fellowship program prior to taking on the role and responsibilities of program director. This time would allow individuals to gain GME expertise, as well as institutional credibility to direct the fellowship and ensure compliance with the Program Requirements.</p> <p>Time spent in fellowship education would not count toward the two years of experience as an active faculty member.</p>
<p>How must the program director demonstrate close cooperation between the core residency program and the fellowship program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: II.A.3.n)]</i></p>	<p>There must be evidence of collaboration and oversight from the core program director, including the integration of lectures into both the core residency and the spinal cord injury medicine fellowship curriculum and involvement of fellows and spinal cord injury medicine faculty members in activities of the core residency program.</p>
<p>What percentage of the faculty should participate in scholarly activity?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: II.B.5]</i></p>	<p>It is expected that at least 50% of the faculty be actively involved in scholarly activity.</p>

Question	Answer
<p>What is considered sufficient size and diversity for the patient population?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: II.D.2]</i></p>	<p>The education of spinal cord injury medicine fellows must include exposure to a diverse population of patients with traumatic and non-traumatic spinal cord injuries throughout the continuum of care. It is imperative for the program to demonstrate in the documents required for program review a history of exposure to patients in this continuum.</p>
Educational Program	
<p>During inpatient rotations, can fellows participate in other activities?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: IV.A.3.a).(1)]</i></p>	<p>As long as a fellow is providing direct or indirect supervisory care for a caseload of at least eight hospitalized patients, he or she may also participate in outpatient clinic, make inpatient consultations, or engage in scholarly activity.</p>
<p>How much assigned time should each fellow devote to conducting research and other scholarly activity?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: IV.B.1]</i></p>	<p>It is suggested that each fellow devote a minimum of one half-day per week to conducting research or to other scholarly activity.</p>
Evaluation	
<p>How are fellows' evaluations of faculty members kept confidential if there is a small number of fellows in the program?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: V.B.3]</i></p>	<p>In order to maintain confidentiality, the program director should combine fellows' evaluations of faculty members with those from residents in the core residency program.</p>
The Learning and Working Environment	
<p>Are there any non-physician licensed independent practitioners who may supervise fellows?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: VI.A.2.a).(1)]</i></p>	<p>Advanced nurse practitioners and psychologists may supervise fellows, as appropriate.</p>
<p>What is the optimal clinical workload for fellows?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: VI.E.1.]</i></p>	<p>The program director must make an assessment of the learning environment with input from faculty members and residents. Minimum patient loads should be eight on the spinal cord injury (SCI) unit. With experience, a fellow may progress from providing direct care to eight inpatients to supervising physical medicine and rehabilitation residents caring for patients on the inpatient SCI unit.</p>