



Executive Summary of the Agreement among ACGME, AOA, and AACOM

There are four broad dimensions to the Agreement among ACGME, AOA, and AACOM.

The first dimension of the Agreement focuses on AOA-approved residency programs. There are several provisions to facilitate the accreditation of current AOA-accredited programs into the broadened accreditation system. (1) AOA-approved training programs in existence on July 1, 2015, may elect to apply for ACGME accreditation, and, by applying, gain “pre-accreditation” status from July 1, 2015 up to June 30, 2020 (transition period) (unless and until the program achieves ACGME accreditation, or chooses to withdraw its application). (2) Certification by the relevant AOA specialty board of AOA-approved program faculty will be a certification credential acceptable to the relevant Review Committee for faculty in programs applying for ACGME accreditation during this five year period. (3) AOA-approved training programs may retain their AOA approval as long as they continue to meet AOA approval standards during the transition. (4) Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions (OPTIs) may apply for and be recognized as sponsoring institutions of ACGME-accredited training programs. (5) It will be acceptable for ACGME accredited programs to have co-program directors, one certified by an ABMS specialty board (or having credentials otherwise acceptable to the relevant ACGME specialty Review Committee), and another certified by an AOA specialty board. The ABMS specialty board certified program director must possess qualifications and perform job duties in full compliance with ACGME common and specialty requirements.

The second dimension of the Agreement is clarification of the eligibility of osteopathic graduates to enter advanced training in ACGME-accredited programs. (Graduates of osteopathic medical schools will continue to be eligible for initial training in ACGME-accredited programs.) During the transition period, physicians who graduate from programs with pre-accreditation status will be eligible for entry into ACGME accredited advanced standing residencies and fellowships determined by specialty specific eligibility standards that that were in effect on June 30, 2013, rather than the eligibility standards that will take effect in July, 2016. Once a program achieves ACGME accreditation, graduates will be from an ACGME accredited program, and will be eligible for all advanced training positions in all ACGME-accredited programs.

The third dimension of the Agreement discusses osteopathic medical principles within ACGME. The ACGME Residency Review Committees for which there are osteopathic programs will have one or more full voting osteopathic members. In addition, two new committees will be created within the ACGME. The first of these will be the Osteopathic Principles Committee, whose role will be to establish standards and evaluate program compliance in the Osteopathic Principles dimension of residency training; this will provide for programs to be recognized as offering training in Osteopathic Principles. The second will be the Neuromusculoskeletal Review Committee, which will set standards and render accreditation decisions for neuromusculoskeletal and osteopathic manipulative medicine programs.

The fourth dimension of the Agreement is the incorporation of AOA and AACOM in the governance structure of ACGME. AOA and AACOM will become full members of the ACGME upon approval of the necessary changes to the ACGME bylaws (on or before September 30,

2015). The AOA and AACOM each will nominate to four director seats on the ACGME Board of Directors, phased in during the transition period. Upon approval of the ACGME bylaws change, the AOA will also become a nominating organization to RRCs in specialties in which there are substantial numbers of AOA approved programs. Upon approval of the ACGME bylaws change, the AOA will also become a nominating organization to all RRCs where currently AOA accredited program applications are anticipated. The AOA will cease its graduate medical education accreditation activities on June 30, 2020, or it will withdraw with AACOM as members of ACGME prior to that date.