

Procedure for Processing Sports Medicine Applications/Programs

According to ACGME Policy Sports Medicine programs are *dependent* subspecialty programs.

- Dependent subspecialty programs are required to function in conjunction with an ACGME-accredited specialty (sometimes referred to as a 'core') program.
- The continued accreditation of the subspecialty program is dependent on the specialty/core program's maintaining its accreditation.
- The dependent subspecialty program must be sponsored by the same ACGME-accredited sponsoring institution of the linked specialty/core, and should be geographically proximate.
- ACGME will only consider Sports Medicine program applications for accreditation from a sponsoring institution that also sponsors an ACGME-accredited specialty/core program in one of the five areas:

The sponsoring institution must also sponsor an ACGME-accredited residency program in emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, or physical medicine and rehabilitation. The sports medicine program must function as an integral part of an ACGME-accredited residency program in emergency medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, or physical medicine and rehabilitation. (Program Requirements I.A.1)

- This requirement ensures that the sponsor of the Sports Medicine program has experience with ACGME and a basic understanding of its processes, policies, and standards. It also ensures that there will be review and oversight of the sponsoring institution by the ACGME, either via the Institutional Review Committee or the Residency Review Committee – if the sponsor is a single program sponsor.
- The Sports Medicine applicant is required to: (a) identify which specific ACGME-accredited specialty/core program it will align with and (b) describe the relationship to the specialty/core program in the application.
- As dependent subspecialty programs:
 - Sports Medicine programs have dependent accreditation statuses.
 - The specialty/core program is notified of all correspondence with the Sports Medicine program and vice versa.
 - If the specialty/core program with which the Sports Medicine program is associated has its accreditation withdrawn, the Sports Medicine program's accreditation will be administratively withdrawn.
 - If a Sports Medicine program needs to re-align and establish a new dependent relationship with a new specialty/core program, it must request voluntary withdrawal of accreditation and submit a new application.

Beginning with site visits occurring on or after July 1, 2011, the RRC for Family Medicine will review and accredit all Sports Medicine programs, regardless of which specialty/core the Sports Medicine program is aligned.

This new accreditation model is being implemented for Sports Medicine following the successful pilot which was completed for Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

- The new model avoids the possibility of one or two specialties accrediting a very small number of Sports Medicine programs.
- It allows one RRC to develop expertise in reviewing and accrediting these programs.
- It allows programs to be reviewed in a consistent and standard way.

- The transition will occur for scheduled site visits occurring after July 1, 2011 and beyond.
- Programs will be notified to submit their PIFs directly to the site visitor prior to the scheduled site visit.
- The site visitor will submit his/her report and the three copies of the PIF to the RRC-Family Medicine for review and comment.
- The RRC-Family Medicine reviews program at least three times per year: January, May, and September.

SVP-DAC 01.10.11