

## Use of ACGME Case Log System is Voluntary

As was noted in the November 2007 newsletter, the Committee discontinued the mandatory use of ACGME's case log system to document residents' experience with procedures.

The Committee had required its core program directors to use the ACGME case log system to track residents' procedures until the fall of 2007. Collection of these data was expected to provide the Committee national information related to procedures. However, once implemented, program directors informed the Committee that the ACGME's system was not as sophisticated as other proprietary data collections systems, and that there was no easy way to import data from other systems. This along with the fact that the national report had significant data integrity issues, led the Committee to decide that the use of the ACGME system should be voluntary rather than mandatory: although the Committee is interested in seeing documentation that residents are receiving experience with the procedures listed in the requirements, there is flexibility in terms of which system can be used to document that such experience is being provided. The Committee agreed to update and correct issues that directors had identified as problematic with the ACGME's system, so that programs that want to continue using it as their data collection/reporting system can do so.

In 2006, the Committee stated that use of the ACGME system to track continuity was also voluntary. Programs will need to demonstrate compliance with the continuity requirements (for number of weeks of clinic annually and number of patients per resident per session). However, there is flexibility in terms of what system can be used to document compliance.

Programs have the choice of using either the ACGME system or an alternate system to track both procedures and continuity.