

## Procedure for Processing Neuromuscular Medicine Program Applications

According to ACGME Policy Neuromuscular Medicine programs are *dependent* subspecialty (also referred to as 'fellowship') 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 program and should be geographically proximate.
- ACGME will only consider Neuromuscular Medicine program applications for accreditation from a sponsoring institution that also sponsors an ACGME-accredited specialty/core program in one of two areas:

*The neuromuscular medicine program must take place in a center in which there is an ACGME-accredited residency program in neurology or physical medicine and rehabilitation, and with the written approval and support of the director of the parent program at that institution. (Program Requirement II.A.1.)*

- This requirement ensures that the sponsor of the Neuromuscular 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 Neuromuscular 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:
  - Neuromuscular Medicine programs have dependent accreditation statuses.
  - The specialty/core program is notified of all correspondence with the Neuromuscular Medicine program and vice versa.
  - If the specialty/core program with which the Neuromuscular Medicine program is associated has its accreditation withdrawn, the Neuromuscular Medicine program's accreditation will be administratively withdrawn.
  - If a Neuromuscular 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.

**The RRC for Neurology will review and accredit all Neuromuscular Medicine programs, regardless of which specialty/core the Neuromuscular Medicine program is aligned with.**

- This new accreditation model is being implemented for Neuromuscular Medicine following the successful pilot which was completed for Hospice and Palliative Medicine.
- The new model avoids the possibility of one or two RRCs accrediting a very small number of Neuromuscular 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 to all programs being accredited by the RRC-Neurology will occur with site visits scheduled for accredited programs is 2010 and beyond and for new applications submitted in 2010 and beyond.