

VII. Experimentation and Innovation

Common Program Requirement:

Requests for experimentation or innovative projects that may deviate from the institutional, common and specialty specific program requirements must be approved in advance by the RC. In preparing requests, the program director must follow Procedures for Approving Proposals for Experimentation or Innovative Procedures located in the ACGME Manual on Policies and Procedures. Once a Review Committee approves a project, the sponsoring institution and program are jointly responsible for the quality of education offered to residents for the duration of such a project.

Explanation:

Innovations are initiated at the program level and may involve an individual program, a group of residents (e.g., PGY1 residents) or an individual resident (e.g., chief resident). Such projects differ from ACGME-approved pilot projects, which are initiated by the Review Committee and affect several programs. Programs may also be involved in non-ACGME-approved pilots or innovative projects (e.g., initiated and supported by the institution or grant agency) but these are not subject to documentation, monitoring or review by the Review Committee as long as deviations from requirements do not occur as part of the project.

Procedures for approving proposals, including eligibility criteria, proposal content, and monitoring, are available from the ACGME website: [Proposal for Program Experimentation and Innovation](#). The program director should complete the [Program Experimentation and Innovative Projects Proposal Form](#) and supply all of the requested information. The DIO must sign the proposal indicating review and approval of the sponsoring institution's GMEC. Proposals should not exceed five pages in length. Additional documents should be attached as numbered appendices. One copy of the proposal should be sent via standard mail to the executive director to the appropriate ACGME Review Committee.

Proposals which include requests for a waiver/suspension of Common Program or Institutional Requirements require ACGME approval; the proposal will be reviewed by ACGME prior to consideration by the Review Committee. This process may delay the response time from the Review Committee. Program directors should estimate six-nine months for a decision from the Review Committee. The Review Committee executive director will provide official notification to the program director and DIO of the Review Committee's decision, which will include the duration of the approval (will not exceed the next accreditation review) and the method of monitoring (e.g., progress reports, updates) by the Review Committee. Reviews and decisions will be made following policy approval. (See [ACGME Policies and Procedures](#): II.D. Procedures for Approving Proposals for Experimentation and Innovative Projects.)

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