POLICY

The GSM Graduate Medical and Dental Education Committee (GMDEC) will provide oversight of underperforming programs through a Special Program Review (SPR) process. The GMDEC is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of this special review process. (ACGME Institutional Requirements I.B.6, 2014)

PURPOSE

To ensure effective oversight of underperforming Graduate Medical and Dental Education programs by the Sponsoring Institution via the Designated Institutional Official and the Graduate Medical and Dental Education Committee. Specifically, this policy will (1) establish criteria for identifying underperformance and (2) address the process to be utilized when a residency/fellowship program undergoes a Special Program Review.

PROTOCOL

Criteria For Identifying Underperformance:

Underperformance by a program can be identified through a wide range of mechanisms. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Deviations from expected results in standard performance indicators:
  - Program Attrition
  - Program Changes
  - Scholarly Activity
  - Board Pass Rate
  - Clinical Experience
  - Resident or Faculty Survey
  - Milestones
  - Timely and Accurate Completion of WebAds
  - CLER Initiatives by GSM

- Accreditation results from the RRC that do not reflect Continued Accreditation (e.g. Continued Accreditation with Warning)

Communications about or complaints against a program indicating potential egregious or substantive noncompliance with the ACGME Common, specialty/subspecialty-specific Program, and/or Institutional Requirements; or noncompliance with institutional policy;

- A program’s inability to demonstrate success in any of the following focus areas:
  - Integration of residents/fellows into institution’s Patient Safety Programs;
  - Integration of residents/fellows into institution’s Quality Improvement Programs;
  - Establishment and implementation of Supervision policies;
  - Transitions in Care;
  - Duty hours policy and/or fatigue management and mitigation; and
  - Education and monitoring of Professionalism

- At the request by a Program Director or Department Chair
SPECIAL REVIEWS OF RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

Special Program Review (SPR) Process

1. **Designation:** When a residency/fellowship program is deemed to have met the established criteria for designation as an underperforming program, the DIO/Chair of the GMDEC shall schedule a Special Review. Special Reviews should typically occur within 60 days of a program’s designation as ‘underperforming.’

2. **Special Review Panel:** Each Special Review shall be conducted by a panel including at least one member of the GMDEC who shall serve as Chair of the panel, and, if applicable, one resident/fellow. Additional reviewers may be included on the panel as determined by the DIO/GMDEC. Panel members shall be from within the Sponsoring Institution but shall not be from the program being reviewed or, if applicable, from its affiliated subspecialty programs.

3. **Preparation for the Special Review:** The Chair of the Special Review panel, in consultation with the DIO/GMDEC and/or other persons as appropriate, shall identify the specific concerns that are to be reviewed as part of the Special Review process. Concerns may range from those that broadly encompass the entire operation of the program to single, specific areas of interest. Based on identified concerns, the program being reviewed may be asked to submit documentation prior to the actual Special Review that will help the panel gain clarity in its understanding of the identified concerns.

4. **The Special Review:** Materials and data to be used in the review process shall include:
   - the ACGME Common, specialty/subspecialty-specific Program, and Institutional Requirements in effect at the time of the review;
   - accreditation letters of notification from the most recent ACGME reviews and progress reports sent to the respective RRC; reports from previous special reviews of the program or reports from self-study visits (if applicable);
   - previous annual program evaluations;
   - performance indicators on the GSM/GMDE dashboard;
   - results from internal or external resident surveys, if available; and,
   - any other materials the Special Review panel considers necessary and appropriate.

The Special Review panel may choose to conduct interviews with the Program Director, key faculty members, at least one resident from each level of training in the program, and other individuals deemed appropriate by the committee.

5. **Special Review Report:** The Special Review panel shall submit a written report to the DIO and GMDEC that includes, at a minimum, a description of the review process and the findings and recommendations of the panel. These shall include a description of the quality improvement goals, any corrective actions designed to address the identified concerns, and the process for GMDEC monitoring of outcomes. The GMDEC may, at its discretion, choose to modify the Special Review Report before accepting a final version.

6. **Monitoring of Outcomes:** The DIO and GMDEC shall monitor outcomes of the Special Review process, including actions taken by the program and/or by the institution with special attention to areas of GMDEC oversight, including:
   - the ACGME accreditation status of the Sponsoring Institution and its ACGME-accredited programs;
   - the quality of the GME learning and working environment within the Sponsoring Institution, its ACGME-accredited programs, and its participating sites;
the quality of educational experiences in each ACGME accredited program that lead to

measurable achievement of educational outcomes as identified in the ACGME
Common and specialty/subspecialty-specific Program Requirements;

the ACGME-accredited programs' annual evaluation and improvement activities; and,

all processes related to reductions and closures of individual ACGME-accredited
programs, major participating sites, and the Sponsoring Institution.

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