OSTEOPATHIC ACCREDITATION IN THE US

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OSTEOPATHIC INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

▪ Educational Pathway for US Osteopathic Physicians
▪ Licensure Requirements to Practice Medicine and Surgery
▪ Accreditation of undergraduate medical education (UME)
▪ Accreditation of graduate medical education (GME)
  – Creation of a Single Accreditation System for GME (DO and MD) in the US
  – Growth in US Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
  – Adequacy of GME training positions
▪ Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (CME)
US EDUCATIONAL TIMELINE (DO and MD)

4 YEARS
Undergraduate College (Bachelor’s Degree)

4 YEARS
Medical School

3-7 YEARS (or more)
Graduate Medical Education
US LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS
(UNDER AUTHORITY OF INDIVIDUAL STATES)

- Graduation from accredited medical school (DO or MD)
- Completion of accredited GME Training (1, 2, or 3 years)
- Passage of National Licensure Examinations – Cognitive and Clinical

ONGOING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

- Continuing Medical Education (CME)

“MARKET” REQUIREMENTS BEYOND LICENSURE

- Board Certification in specialty
UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

- DO degree granting institutions accredited by AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)
- MD degree granting institutions accredited by Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
- COCA and LCME have deemed authority by the US Government (US Dept. of Education)
  - COCA requirements for approval of new schools and increase in class size of existing schools include, “the COM must demonstrate educational planning and noted progress in generating postdoctoral training opportunities”
- COCA accreditation standards may be found here
Historically, two major recognized GME accreditors:
- AOA
- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

In 2014, agreement to establish a new single accreditation system for GME
Five year transition underway (2015-2020)

MDs and DOs eligible for all training positions

Benefits of a single GME system
  – Consistent methods of evaluation and accountability
  – Enhanced opportunities for trainees
  – Eliminates unnecessary duplication
  – Efficiencies and cost-savings in accreditation
  – One accreditation system transparent to:
    ▪ Federal government
    ▪ Licensing boards
    ▪ Credentials committees
    ▪ Public
ELEMNETS OF AGREEMENT

- AOA and AACOM join governance of ACGME as member organizations
- ACGME creates administrative infrastructure to accredit osteopathic GME programs
- Osteopathic standards added to ACGME standards to define osteopathic programs (Osteopathic Recognition status)
- DOs and MDs eligible for all residencies in the unified system
  - Additional pre-requisite education and training will be required for MDs who wish to enter ACGME residencies with Osteopathic Recognition
    - ACGME’s Osteopathic Principles Committee has published those requirements
HOW MEDICAL EDUCATION IS FUNDED IN THE US
UME is funded primarily by tuition revenues
– Average tuition at private medical schools is $46,700 per year

GME is funded primarily by the federal government
– Funding flows through training sites (e.g., hospitals, consortia)

CME is funded primarily through tuition fees paid by the attendees, but also through commercial sponsorship
GME FUNDING STREAMS

- Federal Funds
  - Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Military

- Hospitals

- State Funds

- Local Funds (foundations, etc.)
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (DO DEGREE)

Figure 1: Total Enrollment and Number of Colleges

Source: AACOM
PROJECTED NUMBERS


CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) ACCREDITATION

- Most US states require a defined amount of CME in order to maintain licensure
  - Some states require DOs to complete CME accredited by AOA

- Three major accreditors of CME:
  - AOA
  - American Medical Association
  - American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS