



Accreditation Council
for Graduate Medical
Education

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - February 16, 1995

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ABORTION REQUIREMENT CLARIFIED

Residents and institutions with moral objections will NOT be required to participate.

CHICAGO -- (Considerable media interest has been generated by the February 14th decision of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education [ACGME] adopting revised educational standards in OB/GYN. The standards require that resident physicians training in obstetrics and gynecology be educated with regard to abortion services. Much of the media coverage failed to include information considered by the ACGME vital to understanding the full intent of its recommendation with regard to abortion services.)

According to John C. Gienapp, Ph.D., ACGME Executive Director, "The ACGME's recent recommendation in no way forces or coerces any individual or institution to perform abortion. Any resident who holds any moral or religious objection to abortion is allowed to be excused from the training requirement.

"Of equal importance, any residency training program with moral or religious objections to providing abortion training is not required to offer the training at their institution, but must allow residents in their program access to training at another facility," added Gienapp.

The premise behind the Council's recommendation to require that resident physicians training in obstetrics and gynecology be educated in abortion services was patient safety... must be trained adequately. The most important reason for the revision of the standards in general was to address the need for enhanced education in the provision of primary and preventive health care for women by obstetrician/gynecologists.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is responsible for evaluating and accrediting residency programs in the United States. ACGME member organizations include the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

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Member Organizations

American Board of Medical
Specialties
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American Hospital Association
840 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

American Medical Association
515 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Association of American
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2450 N Street N.W.
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Specialty Societies
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