Site Comparability Policy

Educational Program Committee Approved: December 3, 2014
Educational Program Committee Last Revised: February 17, 2016

In order to assure that students receive comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment, the following data will be examined for each clinical site used in the required clerkships in February and August of each year:

1) NBME Subject Exam Scores;
2) Clinical Evaluation Scores;
3) Overall Numeric Clerkship Grades;
4) Student Ratings of Overall Clerkship Quality;
5) Student Ratings of Overall Quality of Teaching in the Clerkship;

Statistical analyses are conducted by the Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Office on each of these measures and results will be reported to the M3-4 Subcommittee and the Educational Program Committee (EPC). The M3-4 Subcommittee will examine statistical differences and make a determination regarding their educational significance. If the statistical differences are determined to be educationally significant, the M3-4 Subcommittee will make recommendations for correction to the involved clerkship to the EPC. The EPC will make the final determination regarding required changes to the involved clerkship. Clerkship directors will make a plan to enact those recommendations with a timeline for correction and report it to the EPC within 30 days.

In addition to the regular review that clerkship directors provide, effective AY 2015-16, the following data will also be examined biannually by the EPC in February and August:

6) Patient Encounter Logs; and
7) Work Hours

To further ensure comparability, the Evaluation and Assessment Subcommittee will review all pertinent data during clerkship reviews and examine responses on the Clerkship Director Portfolio Questionnaire which contains comparability questions. The Evaluation and Assessment Subcommittee will advise the EPC of any site differences found in its review and the EPC will make recommendations to the clerkship director to resolve site differences and report back on progress within 30 days.

In order to assure equivalent assessment, the syllabi of each clerkship will be examined by the Evaluation and Assessment Subcommittee prior to the start of each academic year. Any differences found will be reported to the EPC. The EPC will address the differences with the clerkship director to ensure that they are corrected prior to the beginning of the clerkship.

Related LCME Element:
Element 8.7: Comparability of Education/Assessment

Policy History
Approved: December 3, 2014
Revised: April 15, 2015 Added patient encounter logs and work hours.
Revised: February 17, 2016 Added that M3-4 Subcommittee will examine statistical differences and make a determination regarding their educational significance prior to submitting to the EPC.