AOA, AACOM, ACGME Agree: Unified GME Accreditation System

In an unprecedented agreement, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), along with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) consented to move forward with a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME) programs in the United States.

According to the AOA in a press release dated Wednesday, February 26, 2014, “A single graduate medical education (GME) accreditation system will evaluate and provide accountability for the competency of physician residents consistently across all GME programs. This ensures the quality and efficiency of postdoctoral education, while preserving the unique dimensions of the osteopathic medical profession and recognizing its contribution to health care in the U.S.”

The single GME accreditation system will be implemented between 2015 and 2020 whereby AOA-accredited training programs will transition to ACGME recognition and accreditation.

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The results of this accord specifically and positively impact osteopathic medical students. “Osteopathic medical students gain clarity that COMLEX-USA is the examination series required for licensure and graduation and, in the majority of situations, also by residency program directors as part of applications for all residency and fellowship programs,” John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, said.

As stated by the AOA, “For the osteopathic medical profession, the system recognizes the unique principles and practices of DOs and their contribution to the health and well-being of all Americans.”

Dr. Gimpel praised the work of the three organizations and went on to explain the ultimate impact these changes will have on healthcare consumers: “Patients can be assured that osteopathic physicians have demonstrated competencies in an assessment pathway – the COMLEX-USA Examination series—that is valid for the practice of osteopathic medicine,” he said.

For more details on this historic agreement and its implementation, visit www.osteopathic.org/ACGME.

The NBOME is the leading assessment organization for the osteopathic medical profession. Its mission is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions. NBOME’s COMLEX-USA examination series provides the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in the United States.

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