

GME and Immigration Issues: The National Perspective

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GME Issues

Hot Topic #1: Medicare and Medicaid's Support for GME

- Increasing pressure to reform (meaning, reduce spending on) these programs
 - Medicare supports its share of GME costs in teaching hospitals
 - Medicaid supports GME in 47 states
- When spending needs to be reduced, more attractive to cut GME spending than to cut patient care spending or reduce benefits

Medicare and Medicaid

- Support for GME from the Congress has been stable but the current Administration has been looking for ways to reduce spending
 - Disallow Federal Medicaid GME support
 - Phase out Medicare teaching hospital support for capital improvements
 - Disallow some Medicare GME support for educational activities

Hot Topic #2: Resident Duty Hours

- US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has asked Institute of Medicine (IOM) for report
 - Focus will be effect of resident duty hours on quality, patient safety, and medical errors
 - IOM report expected in December 2008
- Request for study came from members of US House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Resident Duty Hours

- Concern among some is that ACGME continuous duty limit (24+6) and overall limit (80) may still be too high
 - If ACGME were to adopt lower limits, what impact would this have on education, continuity, and teaching hospital costs?
 - If ACGME does *not* adopt lower limits, will Congress step in and pass legislation tying lower limits to participation in Medicare?

Hot Topic #3: Physician Workforce

- Federal Council on GME has projected an impending shortage of physicians
 - Increase US medical school enrollment
 - Phase in increase in Medicare resident cap
 - Encourage specialty-specific studies
 - Promote programs that lead to better distribution of physicians
- Note: Where do IMGs fall in this discussion?

Physician Workforce

- Number of elderly in the US will double between 2000 and 2030
- Doctor visits are higher for those over 65
 - The US population will make 53% more trips to the doctor in 2020 than in 2000
- Will IMGs be asked to fill in the gaps?

Source: *Help Wanted: More US Doctors*, Center for Workforce Studies, AAMC

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IMG Issues

Hot Topic #1: Immigration

- Where have we been:
 - Ombudsman's Annual Report 2008
 - FBI name check delays
 - Frontlogs & Backlogs
 - USCIS fee structure
 - Statistics
 - Complexity & Standardization

Where are we going...

November elections

- Immigration Reform
 - Secure borders
 - Penalize employer violators
 - Enforcement or Legalization?

Challenges

- 12 million undocumented
- Funding ...fee-based or appropriations
- Systemic complexity

Hot Topic #2: Worksite Enforcement

- E Verify reauthorized?
- New Employee Verification Act (NEVA)
- Real ID
- Secure America with Verification and Enforcement (SAVE)

Hot Topic #3: Travel

- F, M, J visa processing at U.S. consulates
- Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)
- Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)



Questions/Discussion

