Navigating Non-Standard Programs
Definition of Non-standard

- Clinical training in advanced subspecialty disciplines or pathways for which there is no ACGME accreditation and/or ABMS member board certification
  - All Non-standard disciplines must carry written endorsement from an ABMS-member board
  - Up-to-date listing of approved Non-standard disciplines available on the ECFMG website
  - Approval for new and/or unique non-standard disciplines requires program request to ABMS-member board
Non-standard Application Process and J-1 Visa sponsorship

- Developed by ECFMG, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. academic medical community
- Ensures that non-standard programs have the same level of coordination and oversight as accredited programs
- Ensures regulatory compliance and provides administrative oversight for J-1 physicians
- Provides a framework for any bona fide GME program, both accredited and unaccredited regardless of the applicant’s immigration status
ECFMG Website Tools

- Sponsorship Overview
  - Definition of non-standard training
  - Sponsorship process
- Requirements (see application checklist)
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Tips & Best Practices
- Frequently Asked Questions
- GME Terms & Definitions
Roles and Responsibilities

**Training Program Director**

- Provides oversight of non-standard program
- Identifies training offer
- Identifies ABMS member-board support and, if necessary, requests written board approval
- Provides a detailed, signed Program Description
- Identifies educational and financial resources
Roles and Responsibilities

**GMEC: Graduate Medical Education Committee**

- Provides oversight for all training activities
- Reviews and approves program/pathway and curriculum
- Confirms teaching hospital is in full compliance with ACGME
- Confirms all accreditable programs are in good standing
- Confirms non-standard program is directly associated with the ACGME-accredited parent program
- Confirms that the institution and training program understand that J-1 physicians are prohibited from billing directly for services rendered
- Signs and dates *Verification Statement*

*http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/forms-memos.html*
Roles and Responsibilities

**Parent Program**

- Verifies a sharing of educational resources between the accredited and non-standard programs
- Parent program not expected to provide direct oversight for non-standard program
- Program Director of the parent program signs the Verification Statement
Roles and Responsibilities

**TPL: Training Program Liaison**

- Provides internal coordination of non-standard application process

- Ensures the submission of accurate and complete documentation to ECFMG

- Monitors arrival and on-going activities of J-1 physician

- Notifies ECFMG of changes to GMEC and ECFMG approved training program

- Notifies ECFMG of changes affecting J-1’s full time participation in the program

- Uses website as a tool and communicates information accordingly
Types of Non-Standard Training

- “Plus one” years in / after ACGME Training
  - Chief Residency
  - Academic/Research Tracks

- Advanced Clinical Sub-specialty Disciplines
  - International Fellowships for IMGs that offer portions of an ACGME fellowship curriculum

- Short-term training opportunities
Chief Residency
(Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Family Medicine)

Chief Residency Positions
- Physicians interested in academic medicine and/or future sub-specialization
- Provides exposure to administrative responsibilities of a residency program

Requirements
- Post-graduate training year 4 (PGY-4) after completion of base residency
- Offered through a competitive selection process
- Reviewed by the residency competency committee on semi-annual basis
- Provides a mentor/direct report to program director
- Prohibited from billing for services

Training Objectives
- Effective planning and scheduling of residents and rotations
- Teaching skills: constructive feedback, supervision and evaluation
- Management of adverse action, etc.
- General career and leadership development
Academic / Research Track

- A training pathway within an accredited discipline that extends the program duration
- Pursued by physicians who wish to be future clinicians / educators (academicians)
- J-1 physicians are limited to participation in the required research activities
- Must be a part of the original predefined curriculum and approved program description
- Must carry ABMS-member board endorsement
- Must be outlined in the physician’s SEO
Advanced Subspeciality Fellowships

- Super subspecialty clinical training
- Offered to subspecialists who have completed the prerequisite training in U.S. or abroad
- Some non-standard training develops into ACGME accredited programs and/or specialty board certification
- “International fellowships” are designed to offer IMGs portions of accredited curriculum most relevant to home country needs
Short-Term Training within Approved Non-standard Programs

“Mini-fellowships” (3-6 months)
- Practicing physicians seeking advanced training
- Elective rotations for Canadian or International medical resident

Requirements
- Valid ECFMG Certification
- Pre-defined curriculum/approved training program
- Funding
- If resident, evidence of credit for U.S. rotation
- Applicant is subject to two-year home country physical presence requirement [§ 212(e)INA]
Common Issues

- Application types (initial vs. continuation)
- GMEC Verification Statement (parent program)
- Program description
- Statement of Educational Goals and Objectives (SEO)
- Statement of Need from federal Ministry of Health
Tips and Best Practices

“The Big Picture”

- Strive for consistency & effective internal communication
- Identify the training program or pathway
- Compare training offer and program title to list of recognized non-standard disciplines*
- Use website tools to understand the requirements
- Ensure that all application materials reflect consistent program name as listed on Board-approval

*www.ecfmg.org/evsp/nonstandard-subspecialty-disciplines.html
EVNet
Exchange Visitor Network

Web-based system developed by ECFMG for the submission of applicant and appointment information

- EVNet access limited to authorized TPLs
- Replaces paper application forms
- Applicants notified via email once TPL initiates a sponsorship application on his/her behalf
  - Applicant must accept appointment through OASIS
  - Applicant provides biographical data and submits fee payment
- All supporting documentation mailed or faxed to ECFMG
- Process = EVNet + OASIS + ECFMG
  (TPL) (Applicant) (Regional Advisor)
Non-standard Training and EVNet Appointment Profile

Before creating the appointment profile the TPL must:

- Identify the training program or pathway by asking:
  - Is the appointment for an ACGME-accredited program / slot?
  - Is the appointment for a non-standard program or pathway?

- Match the training appointment for the J-1 applicant to a specific program or pathway type

- Check EVNet to verify that program is in your existing program list

- If new program, complete and submit required form to ECFMG

**IMPORTANT:** Non-standard programs will not be added to EVNet without Board approval.