

# COPT UPDATE

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The AOA Council on Postdoctoral Training (COPT) met in Chicago on July 31, 2015. At the meeting, the COPT reviewed the newly approved Section X, AOA Program Accreditation During Transition to the Single Accreditation System to be included into the [AOA Basic Documents](#). This Section X has been approved by the AOA Board of Trustees. The information in Section X is of great significance to all currently accredited AOA programs regardless of ACGME transition status. Please review completely.

## Section X: AOA Program Accreditation during Transition to Single Accreditation System

### 10.1 Revisions to Specialty Basic Standards

The specialty college must provide documentation to COPT validating a need for the revisions to their specialty basic standards.

### 10.2 New Program Approvals

New AOA program applications after July 1, 2015 will require evidence of a documented plan for transition to ACGME accreditation.

### 10.3 Increase Approvals

a. Applications for program increases will require evidence that the program is in a Medicare cap building period or provide other valid rationale to warrant the increase in size.

b. Applications for program increase after July 1, 2015 will require evidence of a documented plan for transition to ACGME accreditation.

### 10.4 ACGME Accreditation Correspondence

a. The ACGME accreditation status of AOA OPTIs, institutions, or programs (pre-accreditation, continued pre-accreditation, initial accreditation contingent, initial accreditation, etc) is considered a substantive change (Standard A.5.2).

b. AOA-approved programs, institutions, and OPTI are required to forward all correspondence (including ACGME Letters of Notification) regarding their ACGME accreditation status to their OPTI, the AOA, and the specialty college within 30 days of receipt.

c. Failure to comply with this policy will be reported to the Program and Trainee Review Council (PTRC) and Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions (COPTI) and may result in probation or closure.

**10.5 AOA Program Actions** *Per the current PTRC Handbook, the PTRC has the ability to place a program on probation with or without the ability to recruit based on recommendation of the SPEC provided there are critical deficiencies that affect the quality of the program.*

a. AOA programs that do not apply for ACGME accreditation cannot accept new trainees after July 1 of the year in which the resident can complete their training by June 30, 2020.

### 10.6 Continued Pre-Accreditation Status

AOA programs that have continued pre-accreditation status for 2 full years and have trainees that cannot complete their training by June 30, 2020 must work with their OPTI and sponsoring institution to develop and submit a plan for the potential transfer all trainees to an ACGME accredited program. The plan will be reviewed by the SPEC and PTRC for approval. This does not negate continued application for ACGME initial accreditation.

## 10.7 ACGME Application Process

Any AOA accredited programs that have not submitted an application for ACGME accreditation by July 1, 2016 must notify their sponsoring OPTI, the AOA, the specialty college, its residents, and all trainee applicants, and may not accept any new trainees that cannot be program complete by June 30, 2020.

## 10.8 Exemptions

PTRC has the ability to approve exemptions to Section X policies on a case-by-case basis.

## Explanation for Standard 10.5a

*Standard 10.5a applies to all programs, not just programs on probation.*

**Example 1:** A surgery program could accept new residents on July 1, 2016 as long as it has applied for ACGME accreditation by June 30, 2016. The surgical program would be in violation of the policy if it accepted new trainees on July 1, 2016 without having applied to the ACGME for accreditation or granted an exemption by PTRC.

**Example 2:** A family medicine program could accept new residents on July 1, 2018 as long as it has applied for ACGME accreditation by June 30, 2018. The family medicine program would be in violation of the policy if it accepted new trainees on July 1, 2018 without having applied to the ACGME for accreditation or granted an exemption by PTRC.

**Requesting an Exemption:** Exemptions to Standard 10.5a must be recommended by your Specialty College Evaluating Committee (SPEC) to the Program and Trainee Review Council, which is the AOA council charged with granting exemptions to any policy in Section X.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the AOA at [singleGME@osteopathic.org](mailto:singleGME@osteopathic.org).

## Find Answers to Your Questions

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