Policy on Educational Resources for Clinical Informatics

**Background:** The University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) sponsors and provides support to a Clinical Informatics training program. Because Clinical Informatics involves multiple disciplines and professions, the ACGME requires that there be an institutional policy governing the educational resources committed to Clinical Informatics. This policy ensures cooperation of all involved disciplines and professions.

A clinical informatics fellowship must function as an integral part of an ACGME accredited residency program in Anesthesiology, Diagnostic Radiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Medical Genetics and Genomics, Pathology, Pediatrics, or Preventive Medicine. There may be only one ACGME-accredited clinical informatics program within a sponsoring institution.

Fellows training in Clinical Informatics may originate from different disciplines and approach the field with varying backgrounds and experience, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the educational training experience for the UWSOM-sponsored Clinical Informatics training program complies with the institutional and program-specific RRC requirements, and that the allocation of clinical and other resources is appropriately monitored.

**Policy:**

The fellowship is sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine. The Clinical Informatics program director, who may practice in a different specialty, is assigned primary responsibility for organizing the educational program for every Clinical Informatics fellow and for assuring cooperation among all involved disciplines and professions. Clinical Informatics training and experience may be modified to meet the needs of each fellow based on his or her background and experience. The program must provide the resources necessary to provide comprehensive Clinical Informatics training to assure the training of each fellow can be achieved.

**Compliance:**

The Clinical Informatics training program will perform an annual review of program effectiveness according to the terms of the UW GME Annual Program Evaluation Policy. The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and the GME Committee (GMEC) will monitor educational resources committed to the Clinical Informatics training program by reviewing the Annual Program Evaluation, which must include the fellows’ and faculty confidential evaluation of the program annually.

If difficulties in the distribution of resources committed to Clinical Informatics training are identified, the DIO will meet with members of the program involved and with other hospital/institutional officials as necessary to assess the issues and to recommend corrective action. The DIO will report these findings and recommendations to the GMEC for approval.

Any request for program changes in the Clinical Informatics fellowship would be reviewed through customary GME Office and GMEC processes.