Policy on Educational Resources for Pain Medicine

Background: The University of Washington School of Medicine (UWSOM) sponsors and provides support to only one Pain Medicine training program. Because pain medicine is a multidisciplinary approach to a common problem, the ACGME requires that there be an institutional policy governing the educational resources committed to pain medicine. This policy ensures cooperation of all involved disciplines.

Effective July 2007, there may be only one ACGME-accredited pain medicine program within a sponsoring institution, and a single multidisciplinary fellowship committee to regularly review the program’s resources and its attainment of its stated goals and objectives. Pain Medicine Program Requirement I.B.4.

Fellows training in pain medicine may originate from different disciplines and approach the field with varying backgrounds and experience. Some of these include anesthesiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry and neurology.

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the educational training experience for the UWSOM-sponsored Pain Medicine 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 Pain Medicine program director, who is a member of the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, is assigned primary responsibility for organizing the educational program for every Pain Medicine fellow and for assuring cooperation among all involved disciplines. Pain medicine 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 pain medicine training to assure the training of each fellow can be achieved.

Compliance: The Pain Medicine training program will perform an annual review of program effectiveness according to the Annual Program Evaluation Policy and Procedures. The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and the GME Committee (GMEC) will monitor educational resources committed to the Pain Medicine training program through the Annual Program Evaluation (APE) process and the fellows’ annual program evaluation.

If difficulties in the distribution of resources committed to pain medicine 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 to the GMEC.

Any request for program changes in pain medicine would be reviewed through customary GME Office and GMEC processes.