TITLE: Dedicated Time for Program Leadership

APPROVED: 4/24/2006

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PURPOSE: To state the minimum dedicated time requirement for program directors to comply with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

POLICY STATEMENT: The program director and, as applicable, the program’s leadership team, must be provided with support adequate for administration of the program based upon its size and configuration. The Review Committee must further specify minimum dedicated time for program administration, and will determine whether program leadership refers to the program director or both the program director and associate/assistant program director(s).

To achieve successful graduate medical education, individuals serving as education and administrative leaders of residency programs, as well as those significantly engaged in the education, supervision, evaluation, and mentoring of residents, must have sufficient dedicated professional time to perform the vital activities required to sustain an accredited program. The ultimate outcome of graduate medical education is excellence in resident education and patient care.

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, may provide support in a variety of ways. Examples of support may include, but are not limited to, salary support, supplemental compensation, educational value units, or relief of time from other professional duties. Program directors and, as applicable, members of the program leadership team, who are new to the role may need to devote additional time to program oversight and management initially as they learn and become proficient in administering the program. It is suggested that during this initial period the support described above be increased as needed. In addition, it is important to remember that the dedicated time and support requirement for ACGME activities is a minimum, recognizing that, depending on the unique needs of the program, additional support may be warranted. The amount of support and dedicated time needed for individual programs will vary based on a number of factors and may exceed the minimum specified in the applicable specialty/subspecialty-specific Program Requirements. It is expected that the Sponsoring Institution, in partnership with its accredited programs, will ensure support for program directors to fulfill their program responsibilities effectively.