Graduate Medical Education (GME) Alphabet Soup

- AACOM – American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine – Founded in 1898 to lend support and assistance to the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education.
- AACOMAS – AACOM Application Services – a non-profit, centralized application processing service for osteopathic medical school applicants.
- AAMC – Association of American Medical Colleges
- ACGME – Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
- ACLS – Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- AI – Acting Internship - four-week elective available to qualified fourth-year medical students from LCME or AOA approved schools.
- AMCAS – American Medical College Application Service – a non-profit, centralized application processing service for allopathic medical school applicants.
- ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – This federal law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
- AMG – American Medical Graduate
- AOA – Alpha Omega Alpha – honor society for allopathic medical students
- Audition Rotation – elective taken by 4th year medical students at institutions where they think they would like to do residency. Called an “audition” because it provides the institution with a way to assess the student prior to ranking them.
- BLS – Basic Life Support
- ATLS – Advanced Trauma Life Support
- CAAR – Computerized Assisted Accreditation Review – Computerized software used by some RRCs for completion and submission of the Program Information Form (PIF).
- CBP – U.S. Customs and Border Protection – A bureau of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing and facilitating trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations, including immigration and drug laws.
- CFO – Chief Financial Officer
- CME – Continuing Medical Education
- CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – Under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), this agency's key lines of business are: Medicare health plans, Medicare financial management, Medicare fee for service operations, Medicaid and children's health, survey & certification, and quality improvement.
- COMLEX – Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination – COMLEX is a three-part licensing exam for osteopathic medical students.
- CV – Curriculum Vitae
- CVS – Certification Verification Service offered by ECFMG
- DGME – Director Graduate Medical Education OR Direct Graduate Medical Education Funds.
- DIO – Designated Institutional Official – Responsible for ensuring all ACGME institutional requirements are being met and responsible for all accredited programs sponsored in an institution.
- DME and IME:
  - DME – Direct Medical Education Funds, also called DGME – Direct Graduate Medical Education Funds – Payment from Medicare intended to cover the "direct" costs of GME. DME or DGME payments are made to cover Medicare's share of a hospital's overall cost to operate a resident training program. These costs include both direct expenses, such as resident compensation, teaching physician remuneration, and costs to operate the medical education office, plus hospital overhead to support resident training activities, such as administration, housekeeping, and information system costs. Each hospital's payment is based upon three components:
    - Per Resident Amount (PRA),
    - Resident FTE counts eligible for payment, and
    - Medicare utilization based upon inpatient days.
  - IME – Indirect Medical Education Funds – Payment from Medicare intended to cover the "indirect" costs of GME. IME is calculated based on a complicated formula and is paid to teaching hospitals to recognize the higher operating costs that result from teaching activities.
- EBM – Evidence-Based Medicine – Term coined in about 1991 to refer to the use of the best available evidence in patient care.
- ECFMG – Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates – The ECFMG assesses the readiness of international medical graduates to enter ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship programs in the US.
- ECCOPT – AOA Executive Council of the Committee of Postdoctoral Training
- EMR – Electronic Medical Record
- EOE – Equal Opportunity Employment – The equal opportunity officer usually helps to ensure a positive, supportive environment free of discrimination for everyone. She ensures that the institution complies with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations.
- EVSP – Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program – The U.S. Department of State has designated ECFMG as the visa sponsor for all J-1 exchange visitor physicians who participate in clinical training programs.
- FAIMER – Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research – A nonprofit foundation of ECFMG
- FTE – Full-time equivalent
- FTE CAP – Cap placed on full-time equivalent (FTE) residents for which Medicare funding may be received. In 1997, there was a major effort to reduce Medicare expenditures. The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) had as one of its goals to cut $103 billion in GME Medicare payments over the next five years. Other related abbreviations:
  - COBRA-Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986
- **BBA-BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997**
- **BBRA-BALANCED BUDGET REFINEMENT ACT OF 1999**
- **BIP A-BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2000**
- **MMA-MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003.**

- **GME Track** – A resident database and tracking system created in 2000 by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Medical Association (AMA). Its purpose is to assist GME administrators and program directors in the collection and management of GME data.
- **GMEC** – Graduate Medical Education Committee – An institutional oversight committee required by the ACGME. This committee has the responsibility for monitoring and advising on all aspects of residency education.
- **GMT** – Graduate Medical Education Training
- **IMED** – INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION DIRECTORY – IMED lists all international medical schools whose graduates are eligible for ECFMG certification.
- **IMG** – INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATE (used to be called FMG or Foreign Medical Graduate)
- **IRB** – Institutional Review Board Committee – Approves research protocols, consent forms, etc. for all research involving human subjects. Reviews patient safety and other requirements before approving protocols. Responsibility is to safeguard the rights of human subjects. May also be called Institutional Research Board or Institutional Research Committee (IRC).
- **IRC** – Institutional Review Committee – A standing committee of the ACGME
- **IRIS** – Intern Resident Information System – CMS established an annual reporting mechanism called the Intern Resident Information System (IRIS). IRIS must be used to calculate DME and IME funds. All residents' time in the hospital is recorded and reported to CMS using IRIS. The IRIS report is submitted to Medicare based on the hospital's fiscal year and subsequently audited by Medicare Intermediaries. The audit includes reviewing resident records, rotation schedules and types of rotations, and IMG documentation. Understanding and recording accurately resident rotation information is an essential component of GME financing.
- **IWA** – Interactive Web Application of ECFMG
- **LCR** – Licenses, certifications, and registrations
- **MCAT** – Medical College Admission Test
- **MD - DOCTOR OF MEDICINE** – terminal degree for allopathic medical students.
- **MEDLINE** – MEDLINE is the National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database covering the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the health care system, and the preclinical sciences.
- **MedPAC** – Medicare Payment Advisory Commission – An independent Congressional agency established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33) to advise Congress on issues affecting the Medicare program. In addition to advising the Congress on payments to private health plans participating in
Medicare and providers in Medicare’s traditional fee-for-service program, MedPAC is also tasked with analyzing access to care, quality of care, and other issues affecting Medicare.

- **NBOME** – National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners – The NBOME is a non-profit corporation established in 1934 that is dedicated to serving the public and state licensing agencies by administering examinations testing the medical knowledge of osteopathic medical students and interns.
- **NPDB** – National Practitioner Data Bank – The NPDB is a nationwide flagging system that provides a resource to hospitals, health care entities, and licensing boards investigating the qualifications of the physicians they intend to hire, license, and grant clinical privileges.
- **NPO** – abbreviation for the Latin *mil per os*, meaning *nothing by mouth*.
- **NRP** – Neonatal Resuscitation Program
- **NSEERS** – National Security Entry-Exist Registration System – Special registration for nonimmigrants, put in place after September 11, 2001, to keep track of those entering and leaving our country in order to safeguard U.S. citizens and America’s borders.
- **OASIS** – On-line Applicant Status and Information System of ECFMG
- **OPP** – Osteopathic Practices and Principles
- **OPTI** – Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution – The American Osteopathic Association established the OPTI in 1995 as the system to structure and accredit osteopathic graduate medical education. Each OPTI is a community-based training consortium with at least one college of osteopathic medicine and one hospital. Other hospitals and ambulatory care facilities may also partner within an OPTI. OPTI’s typically provide more out-of-hospital training opportunities.
- **OSCE** – Objective Structured Clinical Exam
- **OSHA** – Occupational Safety & Health Administration – OSHA ‘s mission is to assure the safety and health of America’s workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. OSHA staff establishes protective standards, enforces those standards, and reaches out to employers and employees through technical assistance and consultation programs.
- **OSTE** – Objective Structured Teaching Exam
- **PALS** – Pediatric Advanced Life Support
- **PD** – Program Director
- **PDA** – Personal Digital Assistant - PDAs are handheld computing devices that can be used for medical education, patient care, communication, time management, and administration.
- **PDSA** – The PDSA Cycle is one QI methodology. The four letters "PDSA" stand for Plan, Do, Study, and Act.
- **PGY** – Postgraduate Year
- **PHI** – Protected Health Information - individually identifiable health information.
- **PI** – Performance Improvement – A more frequently used term for quality improvement.
- **PIF** – Program Information Form – The PIF is the form submitted to the ACGME prior to each accreditation site visit.
• QA/QI – Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement – Efforts to improve health care services and increases desired health care outcomes.

• Residency Application
  o ERAS – Electronic Residency Application Service – ERAS is most commonly used by medical graduates or medical students in their final year of medical college to apply for specialized graduate training in ACGME-accredited residency programs in the US. Many residency and fellowship programs now require applicants to apply through ERAS. ERAS was developed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). It transmits residency applications, letters of recommendation, dean’s letters, transcripts, and other supporting documents to residency program directors via the Internet. ERAS also is available to international medical students and graduates through the ECFMG.

  o FREIDA – Fellowship Residency Electronic Interactive Database – The Graduate Medical Education Directory (also called the Green Book) and FREIDA online are resources created by the American Medical Association (AMA) to assist in finding a residency program. FREIDA Online is a database with over 7,800 graduate medical education programs accredited by the ACGME as well as over 200 combined specialty programs.

  o Green Book – Graduate Medical Education Directory – A book published annually by the American Medical Association (AMA) that includes allopathic Graduate Medical Education (GME) Institutional and Program Requirements. The Green Book also includes lists of accredited allopathic residencies and fellowships by specialty and by state as well as contact information, program director’s name, address, and telephone number for each program.

  o NRMP – National Resident Matching Program – The NRMP is a private, not-for-profit corporation established in 1952. The NRMP, also known as the Match, uses a computer algorithm to match applicants to residency programs. Recent and former graduates of US allopathic and osteopathic medical schools; Canadian medical schools; and foreign medical schools may participate in the NRMP or Match.

• RCA – Root Cause Analysis – A Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is typically conducted as a method of identifying event(s) causes of a medical error, revealing problems and solving them. Analysis generally is done after an event has occurred.

• RRC – Residency Review Committee – Committees of the ACGME that write and promulgate special program requirements (by specialty). Make accreditation decisions for residencies.

• SEVIS – Student Exchange Visitor Information System – The on-line, web-based, automated system for data collection, reporting, and helping ICE monitor student and exchange programs.

• SP – Standardized Patient

• STAT – abbreviation for the Latin statim, meaning immediately

• The Joint Commission (TJC) – (previously JCAHO-Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) – The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Often JC required topics (e.g., fire, radiation, electrical, latex, material and patient safety, hazard communication, emergency planning, corporate
compliance, and infection control) are addressed during new resident orientation and annual retraining.

- **TOEFL** – Test of English as a Foreign Language
- **TY** – Transitional Year
- **TYPD** – Transitional Year Program Director
- **TYRC** – Transitional Year Review Committee – standing committee of the ACGME that reviews Transitional Year program.
- **USIMG** – United States-born, International Medical Graduate
- **USMLE** - United States Medical Licensing Exam – USMLE is a three-part licensing exam taken by allopathic medical students and residents. Between 1992 and 1994, the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) phased in a new licensing exam, called the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Prior to this the allopathic licensing exam had been called the Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX). Each part of USMLE is called a Step.
  - Step 1 is usually taken at the end of the second year of medical school.
  - Step 2 is usually taken prior to graduation from US medical schools. Step 2 has two parts: a clinical knowledge (CK) exam and a clinical skills assessment (CSA or CS).
  - Step 3 is usually taken during or after the first year of residency training.
- **VA** – Department of Veteran’s Affairs – Established in 1811 to provide federal support and benefits to American veterans.
- **VPAA** – Vice President Academic Affairs
- **VPMA** – Vice President Medical Affairs
- **VQE** – Visa Qualifying Examination