



Accreditation Council for
Graduate Medical Education

515 North State Street
Suite 2000
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Phone 312.755.5000
Fax 312.755.7498
www.acgme.org

June 23, 2010

**Dear Program Directors, Designated Institutional Officials, Members of the Faculty,
Residents and Fellows,**

In this fourth message to you related to the educational community's efforts to review and revise current resident duty hour standards, I am pleased to announce that the draft standards are available on the ACGME Website for your review and comment.

The draft is a cohesive and comprehensive package of interrelated standards that are designed to accomplish three goals.

1. To assure the safety and quality of care rendered to patients in our teaching hospitals today;
2. To assure the safety and quality of care rendered to patients of our current residents in their future independent clinical practice; and
3. To assure the provision of a safe and humanistic educational environment for our residents to learn and demonstrate professionalism and effacement of self interest.

As you review these standards, I ask you to look at them as a cohesive whole, rather than a compendium of individual standards. While their implementation will require small change in some circumstances, and large changes in other settings, we must commit to implement those finally approved standards as physicians and leaders responsible for the education of the next generation of physicians to serve the public. This level of commitment is required of all of us, as the privilege of professional self regulation lies in the balance.

The task force looks forward to your feedback and comments over the next 45 days. It is imperative that both constructive criticism as well as supportive comments be provided to assure that the task force understands both the impact of these proposed standards, as well as the insights of the educators in each specialty, prior to submitting the final draft standards to the ACGME Board of Directors for their evaluation and approval in September.

Finally, the economic impact assessment is being conducted by an outside agency. As soon as the impact statement is received from the research team, it will be posted on the ACGME website, and an email announcement and link to the analysis will be forward to the entire GME community.

Thank you all for your support of the task force and the ACGME throughout our exhaustive review and preparation of these standards, for your willingness to offer comment and encouragement, and most of all for your commitment to our residents and the public we serve.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Nasca, M.D., MACP