

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Training Program Liaisons (TPLs), J-1 Exchange Visitor Physicians, and Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs)

**FROM:** Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program in collaboration with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), and American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)

**DATE:** March 2011

**RE:** **ECFMG Update on J-1 Sponsorship Applications for Chief Residency Positions**

In response to the announcement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to eliminate graduate medical education (GME) funding for Chief Residency positions, ECFMG has changed its J-1 visa sponsorship requirements. Effective immediately, all J-1 sponsorship requests for Chief Residency positions will fall under ECFMG's "non-standard" category. Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Family Medicine residency programs seeking to enroll a J-1 Chief Resident must submit an application for continuation of J-1 sponsorship in a non-standard training program to ECFMG. The application must include all required supporting documentation as outlined at <http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/continuation-non-standard.pdf>.

The American Boards of Internal Medicine (ABIM), Pediatrics (ABP), and Family Medicine (ABFM) continue to support the Chief Residency year as an important component of graduate medical education and an appropriate course for J-1 physicians interested in academic medicine and/or future subspecialization. *In accordance with the J-1 Federal Regulations, J-1 physicians are considered to be trainees and, therefore, are prohibited from independent billing.* All three Boards recommend that a Chief Residency program reflect a structured educational curriculum. The program description format must follow the Guidelines for Training Program Description provided by ECFMG at <http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/evspgfpd.pdf>. The following goals, objectives, and requirements must be incorporated into the training curriculum:

**Goals and Objectives**

- Exposure to administrative responsibilities and processes needed to run a residency program:
  - Effective planning and scheduling of residents and rotations
  - Teaching skills: constructive feedback, supervision, and evaluation
  - Management of adverse action, etc.
  - General career and leadership development

**Requirements**

- Post graduate year (PGY) 4 after completion of base residency
- Offered through a competitive selection process
- Reviewed by the residency competency committee on semi-annual basis
- Provides a mentor/direct report to program director
- Prohibited from billing for services

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