



CAME Voice/Voix

Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada Update on Accreditation for CAME Voice

A New Era for the Accreditation of Medical Schools in Canada

As Canadian medical educators know, accreditation of our medical schools and the undergraduate program has involved review by the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) that is Canada-specific and by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) that covers the United States and Canada. Both used the LCME standards and procedures as the basis for their decisions. This has changed since the deans of Canadian schools asked for the creation of an improved accreditation environment.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), the Canadian Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association, sponsors of the accreditation of MD programs in their respective countries, signed a historic memorandum of understanding in December 2013 that has changed the future of accreditation for our medical schools. As of July 2014, the Committee on the Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) has its own Standards and Elements and Rules of Procedure that have been designed to be more responsive to the needs of Canadians, and are fully endorsed by the LCME. Changes proposed include an increased focus on social accountability of medical schools and leadership development for students.

Canadian medical schools will continue to receive concurrent LCME accreditation and our graduates will continue to benefit from reciprocity with the United States. The CACMS Rules of Procedure are in effect now and the CACMS Standards and Elements will be in effect July 2015. This transformation in the accreditation of MD programs is also a first step in fulfilling the FMEC PG Recommendation to “Align Accreditation” along the medical education continuum.

For more information on CACMS see <http://www.afmc.ca/accreditation-cacms-e.php>

The new CACMS standards are available here:

http://www.afmc.ca/pdf/CACMS_Standards_and_Elements_June_2014_Effective_July12015.pdf

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