

Opinions of Academic EM Society Members on the New ACGME Common Program Requirements

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INTRODUCTION

The EM Residency Review Committee (RRC) functions under the direction of the ACGME Common Program Requirements. Recently, the ACGME updated these common requirements. These changes may limit the EM RRC's ability to continue to define protected time for EM core faculty. Without the EM RRC's definition, this protected time could be at risk. This study sought the opinions of members of an academic EM society regarding the impact of the loss of faculty protected time.

METHODS

After approval by the board of SAEM, a four-question survey was sent electronically to all members. The survey was iteratively developed with input by the board of SAEM utilizing a similar survey sent to membership of Council of Residency Directors. A 1 (no impact) to 10 (maximal negative impact) Likert scale was used. Results were analyzed descriptively.

RESULTS

Eight hundred and sixty-five SAEM members responded. This represents a 33.7% (865/2,567) response rate. All surveys were completed fully. If the ACGME were to eliminate protected time for core faculty, the estimated negative impact on job satisfaction was 8.76. The negative impact of the loss of protected time on personal well-being was 8.62. The likelihood of members changing, in a meaningful way, their current academic activities was 7.28. The negative impact of the loss of protected time on respondent's ability to perform current academic duties for the residency was 8.86.

CONCLUSIONS

Academic EM society members anticipate that a loss of faculty protected time subsequent to ACGME Common Program Requirement changes will have a markedly negative impact. The greatest negative anticipated impact for the respondents was concern about the ability to complete currently assigned tasks for the residency. Nearly equally negative were their perceptions of impact on their job satisfaction and personal well-being. A surprisingly robust negative response indicated that the anticipated loss of protected time was likely to cause members to change their current academic activities in a meaningful way.

