

Is medical education training our physicians for health care delivery in the 21st century?

ISSUE: The Commission has broadly discussed that fundamental changes are needed in health care delivery in the United States and in Medicare (June 2008). The Commission has also expressed concern that medical schools and residency programs are not adequately training physicians to be leaders in shaping and implementing needed changes in the health care system (March 2008). If Medicare is to be successful in implementing delivery system change, physicians will need to be prepared to practice in a system that will emphasize a skill set that requires substantive experience focusing on quality and efficiency improvement, working with interdisciplinary teams, managing handoffs of patients, and initiating improvements in the processes of care to reduce medication and other costly errors.

The members of this expert panel will discuss how residency training programs are addressing these needs and what further changes may be required with a focus towards the needs of the Medicare population. Members of this expert panel include:

Dr. Thomas Nasca, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, ACGME

Dr. Michael Whitcomb, former Senior Vice President for Medical Education, AAMC and past Editor-in-Chief of *Academic Medicine*

Dr. Benjamin Chu, President, Kaiser Permanente Southern California Region

KEY POINTS: Dr. Nasca will discuss the accreditation process for residency training and ACGME initiatives to address the evolving needs of physician training. Dr. Whitcomb will discuss some of the success and challenges of adopting medical education to the changing needs of the U.S. delivery system. Dr. Chu will discuss whether there are skills and experiences that would be helpful and feasible for new practicing physicians to have but are generally lacking in the current medical education process.

ACTION: After the panelists make brief presentations, Commissioners will have the opportunity to ask the panelists questions and discuss issues that arise.

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