

FAMILY MEDICINE ACRONYM GUIDE

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	PURPOSE	FUNCTION	URL
AAFP	American Academy of Family Physicians	Professional/ Education/ Research	The Mission of the AAFP is to improve the health of patients, families, and communities by serving the needs of members with professionalism and creativity.	http://aafp.org
AACOM	American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine	Professional/ Education	Promotes excellence in osteopathic medical education, in research and in service, and fosters innovation and quality among osteopathic colleges to improve the health of the American public.	http://www.aacom.org/
AAMC	Association of American Medical Colleges	Professional/ Education	The AAMC serves and leads the academic medicine community to improve the health of all through medical education, research, and high-quality patient care.	http://www.aamc.org/
ABFM	American Board of Family Medicine	Certifying/ Professional	An organization that exists to establish and maintain the standards of Family Medicine and administers the ABFM certifying examination.	https://www.theabfm.org/
ABMS	American Board of Medical Specialties	Certifying/ Professional	An organization of 24 approved medical specialty boards. ABMS coordinates the activities of its members boards and provides information to others concerning issues about specialization and certification of medical specialists.	http://www.abms.org/
ACCME	Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education	Accrediting	Identify, develop and promote standards for quality continuing medical education (CME) utilized by physicians in their maintenance of competence and incorporation of new knowledge to improve quality medical care for patients and their communities.	http://www.accme.org/
ACGME	Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education	Accrediting	Responsible for the accreditation of post MD medical training programs within the US, through a peer-review process and based upon established standards and guidelines.	http://www.acgme.org
ACOFP	American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians	Professional	Promote excellence in osteopathic family medicine through quality education, visionary leadership and responsible advocacy.	http://www.acofp.org
ADS	Accreditation Data System	Service for accreditation	Internet based data collection system that contains the current data on file with ACGME for all sponsoring institutions & programs. Sponsors & programs are required to verify & update general information annually. Programs are also required to verify the accredited training of all residents and to communicate organizational changes as they occur	https://www.acgme.org/ads/default.asp
AFMA	Association of Family	Professional	Dedicated to the professional growth and development of	http://www.afmaonline.org/

	Medicine Administrators		its members with particular emphasis on administration and coordination of health care delivery, education and research within Family Medicine Residency Programs.	
AFMRD	Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors	Professional	An organization for Residency Directors of Family Medicine	http://www.afmr.org/cms/
AHEC	Area Health Education Center	Government Service	AHECs are long-term educational strategies. These academic and community partnerships train health care providers in sites and programs that are responsive to State and local needs. Health career enhancement and recruitment programs for K-12 students are emphasized.	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/ahec/
AHME	Association for Hospital Medical Education	Professional	National, non-profit professional organization involved in the continuum of hospital-based medical education: undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education. AHME's members represent hundreds of teaching hospitals, academic medical centers, and consortia nationwide. Mission is to promote improvement in medical education to meet health care needs; serve as a forum and resource for medical education information; develop professionals in the field of medical education; and advocate the value of medical education in health care.	http://www.ahme.org/
AMA	American Medical Association	Professional	National leader in promoting professionalism in medicine and setting standards for medical practice and ethics.	http://www.ama-assn.org/
AMGA	American Medical Group Association	Professional	Represents medical groups and organized systems of care. This group publishes the compensation survey that may be used in conjunction with CMS Regulations.	http://www.amga.org/
AOA	Alpha Omega Alpha	Honorary	National medical honor society.	http://www.alphaomegaalpha.org
AOA	American Osteopathic Association	Accreditation/Professional	A member association representing osteopathic physicians (D.O.s). The AOA serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s, and is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical colleges and health care facilities. The AOA's mission is to advance the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine by promoting excellence in education, research, and the delivery of quality, cost-effective healthcare within a distinct, unified profession.	http://www.osteopathic.org/
AOBFP	American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians	Certifying	The AOBFP is one of 18 certifying Boards of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). They AOBFP Administer examinations resulting in certification awarded by the AOA.	http://www.aobfp.org/home.html
AODME	American Osteopathic	Professional/Educational	A professional association for Osteopathic and allopathic physicians who are Medical Directors, Directors of	http://www.aodme.org/

	Directors and Medical Educators		Medical Education, Medical Educators or who hold titles which indicate leadership in medical education/administration in an osteopathic pre or post doctoral medical education program. The AODME represents the interests of the entire continuum of osteopathic medical education.	
BHPr	Bureau of Health Professions (HRSA –U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Health Resources & Services Administration)	Government Agency	The mission is to increase the population's access to health care by providing national leadership in the development, distribution and retention of a diverse, culturally competent health workforce that can adapt to the population's changing health care needs and provide the highest quality of care for all.	http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/
CME	Continuing Medical Education	Professional	A requirement which must be met in order for physicians to maintain licensure within their state.	
CMS	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Regulatory Government Agency	Federal agency responsible for administering Medicare and Medicaid and several other health-related programs.	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/default.asp
COMLEX	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Exam	Certifying	In order to more accurately measure the knowledge required by today's physicians, the NBOME initiated the three-level COMLEX to replace the former three-part NBOME examination series. The COMLEX is a three part exam. Each exam is administered over a two day period, and employs an osteopathic primary care approach to patient care fully integrated throughout the examination.	http://www.nbome.org/
CSA	Clinical Skills Assessment, part of USMLE Step 2	Certifying	Prior to June 14, 2005, CSA was used to assess clinical skills and communication skills essential to diagnosing and treating patients, and communication with other health care professionals. This was a required exam for International medical students only.	http://www.usmle.org
CSE or Step 2 CS	Clinical Skills Examination, Part of USMLE Step 2	Certifying	Replaced CSA, effective June 14, 2005. Replaces CSA (Clinical Skills Assessment) effective June 14, 2005. Used to assess clinical skills and communication skills essential to diagnosing and treating patients, and communication with other health care professionals. Students from US and Canadian medical schools as well as international graduates will take the CSE.	http://www.usmle.org
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration	Licensure	Governmental agency responsible for providing licensure/certification to physicians for dispensing all controlled substances.	http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/
DIO	Designated Institutional Official	Oversight	Individual who has the authority and responsibility for the oversight and administration of the GME programs.	http://www.acgme.org
DME funds	Direct Medical	Funding	Medicare pays direct graduate medical education funds	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/regsguidance.a

	Education funds		to hospitals for each AOA or ACGME accredited postdoctoral program based upon a historic cost factor for each resident in the program. DME funds are intended to cover the direct costs of educating a resident, including: salaries for residents; salaries for teaching physicians; and overhead expenses related to the education itself.	sp
ECFMG	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates	Certifying	Assesses the readiness of international medical graduates to enter residency or fellowship programs in the US that are accredited by the ACGME.	http://www.ecfmg.org/
ERAS	Electronic Residency Application Service	Service	On line application service used by medical graduates or medical students in their final year of medical school to apply for specialized graduate training in residency programs in the US.	http://www.aamc.org/students/eras/start.htm
FCVS	Federation Credentials Verification Service	Service	Collects, verifies and maintains information and copies of documents and records that can be provided to professional licensing boards, hospitals and other entities when applying for licensure, staff membership, employment or other privileges.	http://www.fsmb.org/fcvs_program/cvrhome.htm
FMC	Family Medicine Center	Location for patient care	Location used for residents to see their patients	
FREIDA or AMA FREIDA	Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database	Information	Database with over 7,800 graduate medical education programs accredited by the ACGME, containing information about residency and fellowship training programs, affiliated teaching institutions, training statistics and graduates career plans statistics.	http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html
FSMB	Federation of State Medical Boards	Service	A national non-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB's mission is to continuously improve the quality, safety and integrity of health care through developing and promoting high standards for physician licensure and practice.	http://www.fsmb.org/
GME	Graduate Medical Education	Training	Specialized training for physicians after medical school graduation.	
GMED	Graduate Medical Education Directory	Resource Guide	Directory of graduate medical education programs. Published by the AMA. (The "Green Book.")	http://www.ama-assn.org/ Can be purchased from the AMA website, under the "Bookstore" link, or major booksellers such as Amazon or Barnes and Noble.
GMEC	Graduate Medical Education Committee	Committee	This committee must establish & implement policies and procedures regarding the quality of education and the work environment for the residents in all programs. It is an ACGME Institutional Requirement that all Sponsoring	

			Institutions have a GMEC.	
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996	Government	Protects health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs. Established national standards for electronic health care transactions and addresses the security and privacy of health data.	http://www.hipaa.org/
IME funds	Indirect Graduate Medical Education funds	Funding	Based upon the fraction of services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. The IME payment is based upon the ratio of residents/beds in the hospital. IME funds are not intended to compensate for the greater expenses that teaching hospitals incur as a function of providing graduate medical education. These expenses include providing greater diagnostic services.	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/regsguidance.aspx
IMG	International Medical Graduate	Type of Graduate	A term used to describe a graduate of a medical school located outside of the United States.	
ITE	In-Training Examination	Training Examination	Formative examinations developed to evaluate resident/fellow progress in meeting the educational objectives of a residency/fellowship program. These examinations may be offered by certification boards or specialty societies. All ACGME-accredited Family Medicine programs are eligible to take the ABFM In-Training Examination, which is given annually on the first Friday in November. The purpose of the examination is to provide an assessment of each resident's progress, while also providing programs with comparative data about the program as a whole.	https://www.theabfm.org/residency/ite.aspx
	In-Service Exam	Training Examination	An ACOFP sponsored exam for Osteopathic Family Practice and Manipulative Treatment residents. This is a required exam for residents in Osteopathic Family Practice and Manipulative Treatment Residency Training.	http://www.acofp.org/membership/pds.aspx
LCME	Liaison Committee on Medical Education	Accreditation	Accredits programs of medical education leading to the M.D. in the United States and in collaboration with the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS), in Canada.	http://www.lcme.org/
NBME	National Board of Medical Examiners	Certifying	Independent, not-for-profit organization that provides high quality examinations for the health professions – accepted by medical licensing authorities as the standard to judge candidates for medical licensure	http://www.nbme.org/
NBOME	National Board of Osteopathic Medicine Examiners	Certifying	The NBOME is the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. It's a nonprofit corporation dedicated to serving the public and state licensing agencies by administering examinations testing the medical	http://www.nbome.org

			knowledge of osteopathic medical students and interns. The NBOME was established in July 1934. Its website is at.	
NCFMR	National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students	Professional	Three-day national meeting and recruiting event for students and residents of family medicine. This event is usually held in late July/August.	http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/cme/aafpcourses/conferences/nc/aboutnc.html
NIPDD	National Institute for Program Director Development	Professional	NIPDD I is a fundamentals fellowship providing instruction, education and formative experiences. It is designed for family physician educators who want to enhance and develop leadership skills. NIPDD II is an advanced fellowship using the tools learned from NIPDD I.	www.afmrd.org/nipdd
NPI	National Provider Identifier	Health Care Provider Identifier	All healthcare providers are required to have an NPI. NPIs uniquely identify a health care provider in standard transactions, such as health care claims. NPIs may also be used to identify health care providers on prescriptions, in internal files to link proprietary provider identification numbers and other information, in coordination of benefits between health plans, in patient medical record systems, in program integrity files, and in other ways.	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand/
NMS	National Matching Service	Service	The NMS administers the osteopathic match on behalf of the AOA. This matching program places students into osteopathic training positions in the U.S. for the first postdoctoral year of training	http://www.natmatch.com/aoairp/
NRMP	National Resident Matching Program	Service	Private, not-for-profit corporation established to provide a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education in the U.S. All US medical school graduates must register through NRMP for post graduate training.	http://www.nrmp.org/
NPDB	National Practitioner Data Bank	Service	Primarily an alert or flagging system intended to facilitate a comprehensive review of health care practitioners' professional credentials. The information contained in the NPDB is intended to direct discrete inquiry into, and scrutiny of, specific areas of a practitioner's licensure, professional society memberships, medical malpractice payment history, and record of clinical privileges.	http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/
OPTI	Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions	Sponsoring	A community-based training consortium comprised of at least one college of osteopathic medicine and one hospital. OPTIs provide an enhanced quality assurance mechanism for AOA-approved postdoctoral training programs. All AOA-approved postdoctoral training	http://www.osteopathic.org/index.cfm?PageID=sir_postdocoptiabout

			programs must affiliate with an accredited OPTI.	
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Oversight	Governmental agency with mission to save lives, prevent injuries and protect the health of America's workers, by establishing protective standards, enforcing standards and providing technical assistance and consultations to employers and employees.	http://www.osha.gov/
PD	Program Director	Authority	All ACGME programs must have a program director. He/she must have authority and accountability for the operation of the program.	
PGY	Post-graduate Year	Identify training level	Refers to a resident's current year of accredited graduate medical education.	
PIF	Program Information Form	Accreditation document	A document required to be completed by the program director and submitted prior to an ACGME RRC Site review. The PIF is organized in two parts: the Common PIF, which addresses the program's compliance with the Common Program Requirements, and the specialty or subspecialty specific PIF, which addresses compliance with the specialty or subspecialty specific program requirements. The Common PIF is electronically generated through the Accreditation Data System.	http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_120/120_pifIndex.asp
PLA	Program Letter of Agreement	Document	A written document that addresses GME responsibilities between an individual accredited program and a site other than the sponsoring institution at which residents receive a required part of their education.	
RPS	Resident Portfolio System	Service	A free ABFM application for storing and maintaining resident information. The RPS consists of two components: Resident Training Management (RTM) and Resident Performance Assessment (RPA).	https://www.theabfm.org/residency/tracking.aspx
RTM	Resident Training Management (Component of RPS)	Service	A component of the Resident Portfolio System. The RTM system is now the key communication tool between family medicine residency programs and the ABFM. Programs enter information focused at the residency program level through a web-based interface provided by the ABFM. It is the primary pathway for residents toward certification in family medicine.	https://rtm.theabfm.org/
RPA	Resident Performance Assessment (Component of RPS)	Service	A second component of the Resident Portfolio System. The RPA system stores and maintains resident performance information including rotations attended, ACGME competencies met, clinical procedures performed, and evaluations.	https://rtm.theabfm.org/
RPS	Residency Program Solutions	Consulting	The AAFP's Residency Program Solutions offers consultations that fit your program's needs. Consultants help you identify and adopt best practices that can	http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/aboutus/specialty/rpsolutions.html

			transform your program. They help programs commit to achieving sustainable excellence and develop new educational programs that prepare residents for family medicine's future. RPS also offers an annual conference for faculty and staff of Family Medicine Residency Programs.	
RRC	Residency Review Committee	Accreditation	Under the policies and procedures of the ACGME, the RRC reviews residency programs to determine whether they are in substantial compliance with the Essentials of Accredited Residencies.	http://www.acgme.org
STFM	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine	Professional	An organization whose purpose is to advance family medicine to improve health through a community of teachers and scholars.	http://www.stfm.org
TAGME	Training Administrators of Graduate Medical Education	Certifying/ Education Professional	To assure a comprehensive level of services, training, knowledge and leadership through certification for the administration of graduate medical education programs for physicians-in-training	http://www.tagme.org
TIVRA	Trainee Information Verification and Registration Audit	Service	The only AOA-approved method of registering osteopathic interns and residents in AOA approved postdoctoral training programs. TIVRA is a web-based data entry system designed to collect trainee information.	http://opportunities.osteopathic.org
TJC Formerly known as JCAHO	The Joint Commission	Accreditation	Independent not for profit organization that evaluates the quality and safety of care for more than 16,000 health care organizations. Evaluates the organization's performance in areas that affect care. On-site visits are done at least once every three years. Sets the standards by which health care quality is measured.	http://www.jointcommission.org/
USMLE	United States Medical Licensing Examination	Certifying	Three step examination that assesses a physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts and principles that are important in health and disease, and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. Used by medical licensing authorities in the US for granting initial license to practice medicine.	http://www.usmle.org