

News from the ACGME
NEW CASE MINIMUMS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Orthopaedic Residency Review Committee has revised required procedure minimums. The ACGME is requesting your assistance in the last stage of the redesign, which is a public review and comment by program directors. You are requested to weigh-in on three items:

- The categories chosen (breadth and depth)
- The final numbers
- The CPTs included in the case types

Background

Orthopaedic residency program accreditation ensures that trainees have broad exposure to all aspects of surgical and nonoperative care. Faculty and resident surveys, the annual reports from program directors, and data received by the ACGME through resident procedure logs are used by the RRC to evaluate programs. Procedures experienced during residency must include both the breadth and depth of orthopaedic surgery in all anatomic areas. Resident case logs serve as the only record of this experience.

The RRC uses procedure volume extensively in program assessment. The methods for this have evolved. The primary measure has been percentile experience across anatomic areas provided by resident case logging. The minimums originally created by the specialty were also used but percentiles carried more weight. Broad exposure to all anatomic areas were carefully examined that way.

Competency-based assessment requires more detail than percentiles can provide. The RRC wished to maintain the emphasis on anatomic areas while respecting the need for better assessment. A broader look at specific skills was required. This created a perfect storm in 2023 that led to minimum redesign.

Redesign

Teams were created to manage the change in September 2023. Case log data was not used in any accreditation decisions during this time regardless of program status. In April 2024 the RRC finalized the description, number and format for new minimums. ACGME appreciates the working group of 20 CORD program leaders that helped the RRC with feedback and revisions through the winter.

Next Steps

There will be systematic changes once new minimums are in place including a new procedure logging system for the residents, and better reporting for you. Once the new case minimums are finalized educational resources will be provided to help both program directors and residents learn to navigate this new system. There is still work to do. Your opinion matters as we finalize the process.

Action Needed

To review and comment, please complete this survey: https://redcap.link/ortho_minimums. **The survey must be completed by the EOB on May 30, 2024. The survey will close on May 31. Please reach out to Dr. S. Elizabeth Ames with questions, 802-598-3856, elizabeth.ames@med.uvm.edu.**