

**ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education
in Clinical Biochemical Genetics
Summary and Impact of New Specialty Requirements**

1. Describe the scope of practice of the new specialty, as well as the process involved in development of the requirements (e.g., date of recognition of the specialty by the ACGME Board, involvement of specialty boards/organizations, etc.).

Scope of practice:

Clinical biochemical genetics is a laboratory-based discipline that focuses on screening, diagnosis, evaluation, and management of patients and their families with inborn errors of metabolism. This includes training in the skills and knowledge necessary to perform and interpret biochemical analyses relevant to the diagnosis and management of human genetic diseases. Upon completion of the educational program, clinical biochemical geneticists have the skills and knowledge to function as technical supervisors of clinical laboratories and clinical consultants in the diagnoses and treatment of patients with these types of disorders.

Process:

The American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ABMGG) has been accrediting programs in clinical biochemical genetics since 1984. In 2017, the ABMGG Board of Directors approved proposing the transition of accreditation of all ABMGG-accredited clinical biochemical genetics programs to the ACGME.

In June 2017, the ACGME Board of Directors approved the transition of accreditation of clinical biochemical genetics from ABMGG to ACGME. Shortly after that approval, the Review Committee for Medical Genetics and Genomics formed a subcommittee to draft the Program Requirements. The subcommittee consisted of Review Committee members and representation from the ABMGG and the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics with expertise in the field. The existing Program Requirements from the ABMGG were converted into the ACGME Program Requirement format, and then refined by the subcommittee.

Clinical biochemical genetics is one of the first two non-physician disciplines to be approved under the ACGME's post-doctoral accreditation track. Training in clinical biochemical genetics is available to those who have completed an MD or DO degree, or any other doctoral-level degree in a relevant field. Training in clinical biochemical genetics does not satisfy the requirement of completion of a residency in order to obtain a medical license.

2. How will the proposed requirements improve resident/fellow education?

As one of the first two non-physician disciplines to be accredited by the ACGME, this program will provide access to ACGME-accredited education for an entirely new group of learners. Accreditation of programs in this discipline will also allow those with an MD or DO degree to learn and train side-by-side with colleagues holding a doctoral-level degree in other related fields, which will allow for new types of collaboration and different perspectives from learners from various backgrounds.

3. How will the proposed requirements improve patient care and patient safety/quality?

Clinical biochemical genetics is currently accredited by the ABMGG, so these proposed requirements are similar to what has already been in place. As such, there should be no impact on patient care or patient safety/quality, since programs are already adhering to the majority of these proposed requirements.

4. How will the proposed requirements impact continuity of patient care?

Clinical biochemical genetics is currently accredited by the ABMGG, so these proposed requirements should not impact the continuity of patient care, as programs are already adhering to the majority of these proposed requirements.

5. Will the proposed requirements necessitate additional institutional resources (e.g., facilities, organization of other services, addition of faculty members, financial support; volume and variety of patients), if so, how?

The ABMGG designed the requirements for clinical biochemical genetics to be similar in structure, format, and rigor to ACGME Program Requirements, so most programs are already meeting strict standards. Since the ACGME requirements were drafted by taking the ABMGG requirements and refining them, programs should already be familiar with and adhering to a majority of the proposed requirements.

Since programs in this discipline are currently accredited by the ABMGG, they may not currently be overseen by the institutional Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) or the designated institutional official (DIO). As these programs will be overseen by the GMEC and the DIO, there may be a shift of resources within an institution to align their function with other ACGME-accredited programs currently under that same oversight.

As the education and training in this discipline are laboratory-based, laboratory facilities and space that may differ from what's required for other ACGME-accredited programs must be available at the institution. These laboratories will be required to follow strict federal, state, and local regulations. Since many of these programs are already accredited by the ABMGG, the resources in regards to faculty members, volume and variety of patients, and space are likely already in place.

6. How will the proposed requirements impact other accredited programs?

The proposed requirements should have a minimal impact on other ACGME-accredited programs since there are currently 23 ABMGG-accredited clinical biochemical genetics programs. The programs will be new within the ACGME accreditation system, but they have been accredited for many years. Additionally, since these programs will be accredited under the ACGME's post-doctoral accreditation track, they will be separate from medical specialties and subspecialties accredited by the ACGME.