

Overview

We offer breadth and depth of experience in all areas of medical and dental residency education, including Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, affiliation and other contractual agreements, accreditation and policy issues, merger and acquisition considerations, and fraud and abuse concerns. We understand the legal and structural issues related to GME, including navigating the unique relationships among hospitals, academic medical centers, non-hospital training sites, schools of medicine, and faculty, as well as the role of clinical research.

Our GME team combines regulatory, compliance and transactional attorneys with a number of senior advisors, including a former regulator from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a former executive director at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), a former designated institutional official (DIO) of a major academic medical center and a former chief academic officer and DIO of a large rural health system

We have advised clients on a variety of issues facing residency education programs, including the resolution of reimbursement problems involving direct and indirect GME payments. Our team has also worked with hospitals to create new GME programs, helped hospitals navigate the ACGME program accreditation process, and represented hospitals in Physicians at Teaching Hospital (PATH) audits by the US Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG).

Some of the services our Graduate Medical Education team can provide include:

- **New teaching hospitals:** Our team routinely provides regulatory counsel to new teaching hospitals to help them understand and comply with the Medicare payment landscape and "newness" issues.
- **GME reimbursement:** We negotiate with Medicare contractors and have successfully corrected significant payment errors to new teaching hospitals relating to the establishment of per-resident amounts (PRAs) and full-time equivalent (FTE) resident training caps.
- **Full-service GME counsel:** Dentons serves as outside GME counsel to several major hospital systems on all their GME-related issues, including Medicare reimbursement counseling, Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB) appeals, contract drafting, and compliance with fraud and abuse laws.
- **Maintenance of accreditation:** The Dentons GME team provides strategic guidance on accreditation issues, including assisting health care systems whose accreditation for core specialty programs was withdrawn by the ACGME.
- **Moonlighting rules compliance:** We regularly provide regulatory and compliance counsel relating to inpatient and outpatient moonlighting rules and regulations.
- **Analysis of funding options:** Dentons assists clients in developing funding strategies for new programs, for example, identifying available state and federal funding sources for a new psychiatry program.
- **Affiliation and partnerships:** We assist clients in negotiating resident training partnerships, program co-sponsor arrangements and Medicare GME affiliated group agreements.
- **Federal GME advocacy:** Dentons has formed stakeholder groups to solve GME-related regulatory and legislative problems; successfully introduced legislation in the US Congress and obtained a preliminary score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) relating to the "resident rotator" issue.

- **Contracting resources:** Dentons' GME team has drafted and negotiated, for health systems, academic medical centers and program consortia, a variety of complex and sophisticated agreements, including for institutional and program affiliation agreements, faculty arrangements, and funding and cost reimbursement models.

The Dentons GME team also publishes a monthly newsletter, GME @ Dentons, that covers hot topics in graduate medical education.

Your Key Contacts

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