

August 29, 2013

Bahar Niakan  
Director, Division of Policy and Information Coordination  
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
Sent via email: [OIRA\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov)

RE: Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program Eligible Resident/Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Chart

Dear Director Niakan:

On behalf of the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM), including the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, the North American Primary Care Research Group, along with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), we are pleased to submit comments on the Health Resources and Services Administration [information collection request](#) titled the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program Eligible Resident/Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Chart as published in the August 1, 2013 *Federal Register*.

As stated, the THCGME program eligible resident/FTE chart is a means for determining the number of eligible residents/FTEs in a potential teaching health center's (THC)' primary care residency program. The chart requires programs to provide data to HRSA related to the size and/or growth of the residency program over previous academic years, the number of residents enrolled in the program during the baseline academic year, and a projection of the program's proposed expansion over the next four academic years.

Our organizations appreciate that HRSA continues to monitor and support teaching health centers in order to increase the production of primary care residents practicing in community settings. As HRSA contemplates revisions to the THCGME FTE chart, we urge you to ask teaching health centers about residents in post-graduate years 4 and 5 in order to accommodate combined programs and those with 4 and 5 year curricula. In addition, we suggest that HRSA expand the survey to include a means to capture the status of residents leaving the program, much in the same way that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) captures this information in the annual online data survey (WebADS). They capture graduation, transfers (with reason for transfer) or dismissal. We believe this additional information would be useful to create

context for programs where the numbers may not follow the anticipated pattern of matriculation, education, and then graduation.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the information collection request and continue to be supportive of the development of data regarding the utility of the Teaching Health Center program. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Hope R. Wittenberg, CAFM Director of Government Relations, at [hwittenberg@stfm.org](mailto:hwittenberg@stfm.org) or 202-986-3309, or Robert Bennett, AAFP Federal Regulatory Manager, at [rbennett@aafp.org](mailto:rbennett@aafp.org) or 202-232-9033.

Sincerely,



John Saultz, MD MSPH  
President  
Society of Teachers of Family  
Medicine



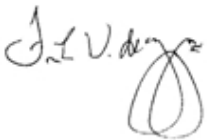
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