

ALPHABET SOUP FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND MORE...

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	PURPOSE	FUNCTION	URL – if applicable
AAIM	Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine	Professional/ Education	The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine is the consortium of five academically focused specialty organizations representing departments of internal medicine at medical schools and teaching hospitals in the United States and Canada. AAIM consists of the Association of Professors of Medicine, the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, the Association of Specialty Professors, the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine, and the Administrators of Internal Medicine. Representing departments of internal medicine at 143 medical schools and 263 teaching hospitals in the United States and Canada, AAIM represents department chairs and chiefs; clerkship, residency, and fellowship program directors; division chiefs; and academic and business administrators as well as other faculty and staff in departments of internal medicine and their divisions.	http://www.im.org/aaim/f
AAMC	Association of American Medical Colleges	Professional/ Education	Improvement of the nation's health through strengthening the quality of medical education and training, to enhance the search for biomedical knowledge, to advance research in health sciences and to integrate education into the provision of effective health care.	http://www.aamc.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/
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
ACP	American College of Physicians	Professional/ Education	The American College of Physicians is a national organization of internists — physicians who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illnesses in adults. ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second-largest physician group in the United States. Its membership of 124,000 includes internists, internal medicine subspecialists, and medical students, residents, and fellows.	http://www.acponline.org
AHA	American Hospital Association	Professional	The American Hospital Association is the national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems,	http://www.aha.org/aha/about/index.html

			networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members come together to form the AHA.	
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/
AOA	Alpha Omega Alpha	Honorary	National medical honor society.	http://www.alphaomegalpha.org
APDIM	Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine	Professional/Educational	Is the international organization of accredited internal medicine residency programs. APDIM is a professional and educational organization dedicated to the promotion of excellence in internal medicine training. APDIM has a membership of over 1,800 individuals from approximately 400 institutions. APDIMs' members represent 95 percent of the accredited internal medicine residency programs within the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.	http://www.im.org/APDIM/
CMS	Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	Regulatory Government Agency	Federal agency responsible for administering the Medicare , Medicaid , SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance), HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments), and several other health-related programs.	http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/default.asp
CMSS	Council for Medical Specialty Societies	Professional	Not for profit organization established to foster, promote, support, augment, develop and encourage improved quality and delivery of care and systems of medical education and communication among professional organizations. Represents specialty societies on ACGME, ACCME, ABMS, CMFA, NBME, NRMP. Council consists of members from specialty societies having Boards recognized by ABMS	http://www.cmss.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/
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	Online 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
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	http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html

			plans statistics. This database is owned and facilitated by the AMA.	
FSMB	Federation of State Medical Boards	Professional	A national not-for-profit organization representing the 70 medical boards of the United States and its territories, including 14 state boards of osteopathic medicine whose mission is to provide continual improvement in the quality, safety and integrity of health care through the development and promotion of high standards for physician licensure and practice.	http://www.fsmb.org/
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1966	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 private of health data.	
JC	The Joint Commission	Accreditation	Independent non 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.jcaho.org/
LCME	Liaison Committee on Medical Education	Accrediting	Nationally recognized authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in US and Canadian medical schools.	http://www.lcme.org/
MMCGME	Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education	Professional	The Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education (MMCGME) was formed with the intent of developing a community within graduate medical education in Minnesota. The MMCGME team manages the FTE reimbursement process, supports the New Innovations RMS system, and hosts an Annual Conference, among other things.	https://www.mmcmeservices.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 knowledge of osteopathic medical students and interns.	http://www.nbome.org
NRMP	National Resident Matching Program	Service	Private, non-for-profit corporation established to provide a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education in the US. All US medical school graduates must register through NRMP for post graduate training.	http://www.nrmp.org/

OGME	Office of Graduate Medical Education	Professional	The OGME is the Office within the University of MN that has institutional oversight of all GME programs (both accredited and non-accredited) for the institution.	https://resource.umn.edu/Interact/Pages/Section/Default.aspx?Section=3762&utm_source=interact&utm_medium=quick_search&utm_term=graduate+med
OPDA	Organization of Program Director Associations	Professional/ Education	Established to allow review and collaboration between disciplines on various GME topics.	http://www.cmss.org/index.cfm?p=display&detail=Organization%20of%20Program%20Directors
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Oversight	Governmental agency with mission to safe 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/
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
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
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
VA	Department of Veterans Association	Education	Supports over 8,600 resident FTE- about 10% of eligible specialty residents.	http://www.va.gov/ MPLS VA: http://www.minneapolis.va.gov/visitors/index.asp

Program/Hospital Acronyms & General Terms

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	PURPOSE	DEFINITION/FUNCTION	URL – if applicable
ADS	Accreditation Data System	Information/ Accrediting	An Internet based data collection system that contains the current data on file with ACGME for all sponsoring institutions and programs. Sponsors and accredited programs are required to verify and update general information annually in a secured environment. In addition, programs will be required to verify the accredited training of all residents and to communicate organizational changes as they occur. ADS is also used to generate both the IM subspecialty and Common PIFs. This database is owned and facilitated by the ACGME.	https://www.acgme.org/ADS
AOA	Alpha Omega Alpha	Honorary	National medical honor society.	http://www.alphaomegalpha.org
COMLEX	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination	Certifying	In order to more accurately measure the knowledge required by today's physicians, the NBOME initiated the three-level Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) 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/
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
GME	Graduate Medical Education	Training	Specialized training for physicians after medical school graduation.	http://www.gme.umn.edu/
GMED	Graduate Medical Education Directory	Resource Guide	Director 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.
IMG	International Medical Graduate		A graduate from a medical school outside the United States and Canada (and not accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education). IMGs may be citizens of the United States who chose to be educated elsewhere or non-citizens who are admitted to the United States by US Immigration authorities.	
IT Exam	In Training Exam	Education/ Training	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.	
JC	The Joint Commission	Hospital Accreditation	Formally known as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations or JCAHO, which evaluates and accredits healthcare organizations in the United States.	
LON	Letter of Notification		The official communication from a Review Committee that states the action taken by the Review Committee.	
NF	Night Float	Resident Rotation	Rotation or educational experience designed to either eliminate in-house call or to assist other residents during the night. Residents assigned to night float are assigned on-site duty during evening/night shifts and are responsible for admitting or cross-covering patients until morning and do not have daytime assignments. Rotation must have an educational focus.	
PD	Program Director		The one physician designated with authority and accountability for the operation of the residency/fellowship program.	
PGY	Post Graduate Year		Refers to a resident's current year of accredited GME. This designation may or may not correspond to the resident's particular year in a program. For example, a resident in pediatric cardiology could be in the first program year of the pediatric cardiology program but in his/her fourth graduate year of GME (including the 3 prior years of pediatrics.)	
PIF	Program Information Form	Site Visit/ Accreditation	The PIF is the document completed by the program director in preparation for a site-visit. The document is a compilation of requested information that reflects the current status of the educational program. 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 IM subspecialty and Common PIFs are electronically generated through the Accreditation Data System (ADS).	
PLA	Program Letter of Agreement		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.	
USMLE Step 1	USMLE Step 3 Examination	Certifying	Step 1 assesses whether you understand and can apply important concepts of the sciences basic to the practice of medicine, with special emphasis on principles and mechanisms underlying health, disease, and modes of therapy. Step 1 ensures mastery of not only the sciences	http://www.usmle.org

			that provide a foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine in the present, but also the scientific principles required for maintenance of competence through lifelong learning. Step 1 is constructed according to an integrated content outline that organizes basic science material along two dimensions: system and process.	
USMLE Step 2 CS CK	USMLE Step 2 Examination Clinical Skills Clinical Knowledge – (are part of this examination)	Certifying	<p>Step 2 assesses whether you can apply medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of clinical science essential for the provision of patient care under supervision and includes emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention. Step 2 ensures that due attention is devoted to principles of clinical sciences and basic patient-centered skills that provide the foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine. Step 2</p> <p>CK is constructed according to an integrated content outline that organizes clinical science material along two dimensions: physician task and disease category.</p> <p>Step 2 CS uses standardized patients, i.e., people trained to portray real patients. The cases cover common and important situations that a physician is likely to encounter in clinics, doctors' offices, emergency departments, and hospital settings in the United States.</p>	http://www.usmle.org
USMLE Step 3	USMLE Step 3 Examination	Certifying	<p>Step 3 assesses whether you can apply medical knowledge and understanding of biomedical and clinical science essential for the unsupervised practice of medicine, with emphasis on patient management in ambulatory settings. Step 3 provides a final assessment of physicians assuming independent responsibility for delivering general medical care. Step 3 is organized along two principal dimensions: clinical encounter frame and physician task. Step 3 content reflects a data-based model of generalist medical practice in the United States.</p>	http://www.usmle.org

**Are you looking for the meaning of an acronym not listed on this page or do you have a recommendation for an acronym to add? Let us know by emailing gme@umn.edu and include a link to this reference so that we know where you are looking.*