



**American Hospital
Association®**

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AHA STATEMENT ON IOM GME REPORT

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Today's report on graduate medical education (GME) is the wrong prescription for training tomorrow's physicians. We are especially disappointed that the report proposes phasing out the current Medicare GME funding provided to hospitals and offering it to other entities that do not treat Medicare patients. The proposed medical education changes would weaken the critical, diverse training students receive in hospitals, where they learn to care for America's seniors, many of whom have multiple chronic illnesses.

These recommendations do not adequately address the current limits on the number of Medicare-funded residency training slots when a nation is already facing a critical shortage of physicians. The proposal also uncouples Medicare payments for GME from care for seniors at a time when 10,000 Americans a day become eligible for Medicare.

The report ignores how hospitals are already addressing the changing health care landscape by providing training in outpatient settings such as community clinics; giving a common infrastructure to support all residents; and recognizing that some specialties, like neurosurgery, only require training in an inpatient environment.

Hospitals provide the most comprehensive training possible and the recommendations in today's report would severely jeopardize the ability of teaching hospitals to train the next generation of physicians.

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