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SUBJECT: AOA SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION DURING TRANSITION TO THE SINGLE GME ACCREDITATION

SUBMITTED BY: Bureau of Osteopathic Education / Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists

REFERRED TO: BOT Reference Committee 1

WHEREAS, the transition to the Single GME Accreditation System by the AOA and ACGME is currently underway and will be complete on June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, during the transition, osteopathic physicians may begin training in AOA accredited programs that subsequently transition for ACGME accreditation or a dually accredited program that drops its AOA accreditation; and

WHEREAS, there is concern about the eligibility of the aforementioned osteopathic physicians to sit for their respective AOA specialty certification Board; and

WHEREAS, there currently is a process for graduates of ACGME accredited programs to have their training approved by the AOA and upon approval would be eligible to apply to sit for an AOA specialty accreditation exam; and

WHEREAS, osteopathic physicians who began training in a program that was AOA accredited when the training began should be recognized as being osteopathically trained and not asked to complete additional application requirements to sit for a specialty exam now; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that an osteopathic physician would be considered eligible to sit for an AOA certifying board with no additional application requirements, if he/she started an AOA accredited program that subsequently transitioned to ACGME accreditation or started a dually accredited program that dropped its AOA accreditation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the period of this eligibility would extend from the commencement of the transition to the Single GME Accreditation System on July 1, 2015 and end on its termination on June 30, 2020.

Explanatory Statement:
With the implementation of the Single GME Accreditation System, candidates applying to sit for AOA specialty certification exams may have been in AOA approved residency programs that have now converted to ACGME accreditation or were dually accredited programs that dropped their AOA accreditation. The question then arises about eligibility for the graduates of these programs to sit for an AOA certification exam. The number of individuals similarly impacted by the transition to the Single GME Accreditation System will probably increase as the more programs initiate this process.

There is a process for graduates of an ACGME accredited program to have their training approved by the AOA and thus be eligible to sit for an AOA specialty certifying exam. It is felt however that those individuals entered an AOA accredited training program in good faith. They should therefore be
considered osteopathically trained and should not be required to complete any additional application requirements to sit for their exam.

Fiscal Impact:
The financial impact of separating AOA membership from certification is unknown at this time.

ACTION TAKEN **APPROVED as AMENDED**

DATE  **February 25, 2016**