Date: March 13, 2020

Re: CREOG Response to Training during COVID-19 Pandemic

To: Program Directors, Program Managers, and Graduate Medical Education (GME) Trainees

From: CREOG Chairs – Drs. Woodland, George and Ogburn

As part of the clinical learning environment, OBGYN GME trainees, program leadership, and faculty will be at increased risk of being exposed to or contracting COVID-19. We recommend following strictly all institutional and regulatory safety and infection control guidelines while caring for patients to prevent acquisition and transmission and provide the highest level of care for patients while at the same time protecting themselves and others.

We anticipate that some trainees may be quarantined or need to take time away from their clinical duties because of COVID-19 during this crisis. If this should happen, we support programs working with their trainees to maximize the use of their time away from direct clinical duties by using that time to fulfill other academic and scholarly requirements.

Additionally, we understand that outpatient experiences and elective surgeries may be delayed in response to the crisis. As a reminder, the "major changes" aspect of WEB ADS is the best place to communicate to the Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology (RC) regarding resident experience as it relates to these challenges.

Ultimately, programs will need to work with their trainees to ensure they fulfill all program requirements. And, programs will still be responsible for assessing residents’ ability upon graduation to be capable to practice independently to make recommendation that they are ready to sit for their board certification examinations. If for any reason, this requires an extension of an individual resident’s training, programs should work directly with their resident and their GME institutional leadership to follow their established protocols. If there are questions regarding the program requirements can be directed to the RC staff.

Any resident that feels they are being unduly penalized should know that each institution has established processes in place to handle misunderstandings or complaints. If there are other concerns as it relates to your residents or your program, CREOG and your region reps are happy to hear how we can support programs and trainees navigate challenges that may arise.

Thank you for your consideration and approach to this emerging health crisis. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of working together as a team to promote the highest quality educational experience while dealing with a very difficult clinical learning environment.
Resources:

American Board of OBGYN (ABOG) – https://www.abog.org/

American Osteopathic Board of OBGYN (AOBOG) - https://certification.osteopathic.org/obstetrics-gynecology/

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) – https://www.acgme.org/

Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology:

https://acgme.org/Specialties/Overview/pfcatid/12/Obstetrics-Gynecology

Requirements:

COVID-19 Newsroom –

https://acgme.org/Newsroom

Institution Requirements -

Program Requirements –

https://acgme.org/Specialties/Overview/pfcatid/12

Resident Support: