Recognized Accreditation Policy

Intealth’s Recognized Accreditation Policy fosters global accreditation efforts and promotes harmonized standards for evaluating undergraduate medical education worldwide. It is one of the many ways that Intealth™ is working to advance quality in health care education worldwide in order to improve health care for all. The Recognized Accreditation Policy will be implemented starting in late 2024.

What Does “Recognized Accreditation” Mean?

“Recognized accreditation” means that the accrediting agency of a medical school has itself been reviewed and recognized by an external quality assurance organization. This quality assurance/recognition organization, in turn, has been reviewed and approved by Intealth. Only medical schools accredited by an agency that is recognized by an organization approved by Intealth will satisfy the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy.

IMPORTANT

When the Recognized Accreditation Policy is implemented in late 2024, it will not be a requirement for ECFMG Certification. Please see below for further details on the policy’s implementation.

Implementation

What Will Change

Implementation in late 2024 will consist of reporting which schools meet the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy, as described below.

If a medical school meets the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy, a notation will be added to the:

- School’s listing in the World Directory of Medical Schools. This reporting will provide valuable information to current and future medical students, medical regulatory authorities, and others around the world.
- ECFMG Status Reports for the students and graduates of that school applying to U.S. graduate medical education (GME) positions through the Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) and similar services. This reporting will serve as a valuable additional data point on the educational background of international medical students and graduates (IMGs) applying to U.S. GME.

What Will Not Change

This implementation will not affect:

- An individual’s eligibility for ECFMG Certification. IMGs can continue to apply for and pursue ECFMG Certification, even if their medical school currently does not meet the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy. IMGs can pursue ECFMG Certification as long as their medical school meets ECFMG’s current requirements. Detailed information on the requirements for applicants and schools is available at www.ecfmg.org/certification/.
- Medical school eligibility for an ECFMG Sponsor Note. More information is available at www.ecfmg.org/resources/sponsor-notes.html.
- Users of other ECFMG services, such as EPIC.
Approved Recognition Organizations
To date, Intealth has approved two organizations for the recognition of medical school accrediting agencies. Medical schools accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by one of the following organizations meet the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy.

- The World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Programme is designed to provide an independent, transparent, and rigorous method of ensuring that the accreditation of medical schools worldwide is at an internationally accepted and high standard. A list of accrediting agencies recognized by WFME and the countries served by these agencies is available here: [www.wfme.org/accreditation/accrediting-agencies-status](http://www.wfme.org/accreditation/accrediting-agencies-status).

- The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to evaluate the accreditation standards applied by a country to its medical schools and to determine the comparability of those standards to those applied to U.S. medical schools. A list of countries and agencies that have received a determination of comparability by NCFMEA is available here: [sites.ed.gov/ncfmea/comparability-decisions](http://sites.ed.gov/ncfmea/comparability-decisions).

A Process of Transparency and Accountability

**Recognition Organization Is Approved**
At the current time, ECFMG has approved the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) of the U.S. Department of Education for the recognition of medical school accrediting agencies.

**Accrediting Agency Is Recognized**
Recognition of an accrediting agency by WFME or NCFMEA confirms that the policies and procedures followed by the agency are at an appropriate and rigorous standard.

**Medical School Is Accredited**
Accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency indicates that a medical school meets the agency’s standards for the proper education of medical students.

**Medical School Meets Recognized Accreditation Policy**
Medical schools that are accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by an ECFMG-approved recognition organization satisfy the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy.

More Information
The Recognized Accreditation Policy will continue to evolve at Intealth’s sole discretion. We are committed to keeping all of our stakeholders informed as we move forward with the Recognized Accreditation Policy. Further details will be published as they become available at [www.intealth.org/accreditation/](http://www.intealth.org/accreditation/). Specific questions regarding the policy may be sent to rap@ecfmg.org.