

**FAMILY MEDICINE**  
**“ALPHABET SOUP” ACRONYM GUIDE**

- AACOM**      **American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**  
[www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)  
The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) was founded in 1898 to lend support and assistance to the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. Having grown from a handful of college administrators a century ago, the organization today represents the administration, faculty and students of all of the osteopathic medical colleges in the United States. The association, guided by its Board of Deans and various other member councils and committees, is actively involved in all areas of osteopathic medical education.
- AAFP**      **American Academy of Family Physicians**  
[www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)  
This is the official group of Family Medicine physicians, which provides professional support, lobbying, education, and patient information resources to its members.
- AAFP/F**      **American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation**  
[www.aafpfoundation.org](http://www.aafpfoundation.org)  
Philanthropic arm of the AAFP
- AAMC**      **Association of American Medical Colleges**  
[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)  
As an association of medical schools, teaching hospitals, and academic societies, the AAMC works with its members to set a national agenda for medical education, biomedical research, and health care, and assists its members by providing services at the national level that facilitate the accomplishment of their missions
- ABFM**      **American Board of Family Medicine**  
[www.abfm.org](http://www.abfm.org)  
The ABFM is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest medical specialty board in the US. Its goals are to improve the quality of medical care available to the public; establish and maintain standards of excellence in the specialty of family practice; improve the standards of medical education for training in family medicine; and to determine by evaluation the fitness of specialists in family practice who apply for and hold certificates. The ABFM provides initial and ongoing evaluation of physicians to be board certified in family medicine. Also see CAQ. The ABFM also administers the annual in-training exam (first Friday in November) and maintains the RTM.
- ABMS**      **American Board of Medical Specialties**  
[www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org)  
The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is an organization of 24 approved medical specialty boards. The intent of the certification of physicians is to provide assurance to the public that those certified by an ABMS Member Board have successfully completed an approved training program and an evaluation process assessing their ability to provide quality patient care in the specialty.
- ACA**      **Affordable Care Act**  
The Affordable Care Act actually refers to two separate pieces of legislation — the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-152) — that, together expand Medicaid coverage to millions of low-income Americans and makes numerous improvements to both Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Colloquially known as “Obamacare”

- ACCME**      **Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education**  
[www.accme.org](http://www.accme.org)  
The accrediting body for Continuing Medical Education programs and departments. The ACCME's Mission is the identification, development, and promotion of standards for quality continuing medical education (CME) utilized by physicians in their maintenance of competence and incorporation of new knowledge to improve quality medical care for patients and their communities.
- ACGME**      **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**  
[www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org)  
The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education is responsible for the accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States. Accreditation is accomplished through a peer review process and is based upon established standards and guidelines. See RRC
- ACO**      **Accountable Care Organization**  
Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) are groups of doctors, hospitals, and other health care providers, who come together voluntarily to give coordinated high quality care to their Medicare patients. The goal of coordinated care is to ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get the right care at the right time, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors. Savings garnered by Medicare from delivering this type of care are shared with the ACO.
- ACOFP**      **American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians**  
[www.acofp.org](http://www.acofp.org)
- ACSM**      **American College of Sports Medicine**  
[www.acsm.org](http://www.acsm.org)  
ACSM's Mission Statement reflects this goal: The American College of Sports Medicine promotes and integrates scientific research, education, and practical applications of sports medicine and exercise science to maintain and enhance physical performance, fitness, health, and quality of life.
- ACLS**      **Advanced Cardiac Life Support**  
<http://www.carlsonconsultinggroup.com/>  
SMC uses Carlson consulting group to provide ACLS training. Our residents are required to be certified before they start new resident orientation.
- ADFM**      **Association of Departments of Family Medicine**  
[www.adfammed.org](http://www.adfammed.org)  
The purpose of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine is to promote the philosophy and interests of family medicine in medical schools in the United States, to further the efficient and effective administration and operation of academic departments, divisions, and sections of family medicine for the benefit of society, faculty, students, and institutions, and to support research and scholarship within activities in family medicine in United States medical schools.
- AFMA**      **Association of Family Medicine Administration**  
[www.afmaonline.org](http://www.afmaonline.org)  
The Association of Family Medicine Administration is dedicated to the professional growth and development of its members with particular emphasis on administration and coordination of health care delivery, education and research within Family Medicine Residency Programs. AFMA is a membership-based organization that consists of program secretaries, administrative assistants, various coordinators, managers, and administrators. They also put on a yearly pre-conference to RPS and several webinars.

- AFMRD**      **Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors**  
[www.afmrd.org](http://www.afmrd.org)  
Provides leadership, lobbying, liaison, and educational opportunities for Family Medicine residency program directors. Subgroup of AAFP. See also NIPDD.
- AHA**      **American Hospital Association**  
[www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)  
The American Hospital Association (AHA) 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, networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members come together to form the AHA.
- AHEC**      **Area Health Education Center**
- AHME**      **Association for Hospital Medical Education**  
[www.ahme.org](http://www.ahme.org)  
The Association for Hospital Medical Education (AHME), founded in 1956, is a national, non-profit professional organization involved in the continuum of hospital-based medical education: undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education. AHME's more than 600 members represent hundreds of teaching hospitals, academic medical centers, and consortia nationwide.
- AHRQ**      **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**  
[www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov)
- AMA**      **American Medical Association**  
[www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)  
The American Medical Association, a professional membership organization, helps doctors help patients by uniting physicians nationwide to work on the most important professional and public health issues.
- AMGA**      **American Medical Group Association**  
[www.amga.org](http://www.amga.org)  
The American Medical Group Association (AMGA) represents medical groups and organized systems of care, including some of the nation's largest, most prestigious integrated healthcare delivery systems.
- AMSA**      **American Medical Student Association**  
[www.amsa.org](http://www.amsa.org)  
AMSA is a student-governed, national organization committed to representing the concerns of physicians-in-training. With a membership of more than 62,000 medical students, premedical students, interns, residents and practicing physicians from across the country, AMSA continues its commitment to improving medical training and the nation's health.
- AOA**      **American Osteopathic Association**  
[www.osteopathic.org/](http://www.osteopathic.org/)  
Serving as the professional family for more than 110,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) promotes public health and encourages scientific research. In addition to serving as the primary certifying body for DOs, the AOA is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical schools and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities.

- AOA**      **Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society**  
[www.alphaomegalpha.org](http://www.alphaomegalpha.org)  
As the only national honor medical society, its mission, developed over the past one hundred years, has been to recognize and enhance professionalism, academic excellence, service, and leadership within the profession. Election to Alpha Omega Alpha is an honor signifying a lasting commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service. Not all medical schools have an AOA chapter.
- AOBFP**      **American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians**  
[www.aobfp.org](http://www.aobfp.org)  
The AOBFP is one of 18 certifying Boards of the American Osteopathic Association and is regulated by its Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists to administer examinations resulting in certification awarded by the American Osteopathic Association. The examinations offered by the AOBFP include primary certification in family practice, certification of added qualifications (CAQ) examinations in osteopathic geriatrics in family medicine, sports medicine, undersea and hyperbaric medicine, hospice and palliative care, sleep medicine, with recertification in family practice and CAQ recertification in addiction medicine, osteopathic geriatrics in family medicine and sports medicine.
- BHP**      **Bureau of Health Professions**  
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/>  
See BHPHC
- BHPHC**      **Bureau of Primary Health Care**  
<http://bphc.hrsa.gov/>  
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated or medically vulnerable. Comprising six bureaus and 13 offices, HRSA provides leadership and financial support to health care providers in every state and U.S. territory. HRSA grantees provide health care to uninsured people, people living with HIV/AIDS, and pregnant women, mothers and children. They train health professionals and improve systems of care in rural communities
- CAH**      **Critical Access Hospital**  
A Critical Access Hospital (CAH) is a hospital certified under a set of Medicare Conditions of Participation, which are structured differently than the acute care hospital conditions. Some of the requirements for CAH certification include having no more than 25 inpatient beds; maintaining an annual average length of stay of no more than 96 hours for acute inpatient care; offering 24-hour, 7-day-a-week emergency care; and being located in a rural area.
- CAQ**      **Certificate of Added Qualifications**  
<https://www.abfp.org/cert/caq.aspx>  
The American Board of Family Practice currently offers Certificates of Added Qualifications (CAQs) in Adolescent Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Sports Medicine. These CAQs are offered in conjunction with other medical specialty boards. Successful CAQ candidates will be awarded the ABFP Certificate of Added Qualifications.
- CFPC**      **College of Family Physicians of Canada**  
<http://www.cfpc.ca>  
The College of Family Physicians of Canada is a national voluntary organization of family physicians that makes continuing medical education of its members mandatory. The College strives to improve the health of Canadians by promoting high standards of medical education and care in family practice, by contributing to public understanding of healthful living, by supporting ready access to family physician services, and by encouraging research and disseminating knowledge about family medicine.

<b>CME</b>	<p><b>Continuing Medical Education</b></p> <p>All physicians must continue their medical education in order to stay board certified and obtain state licensure. Many hospitals, organizations, etc provide courses, meetings, and workshops for physicians to attend. When they attend, they earn CME credit and they must report this credit to the board and license department.</p>
<b>CMS</b>	<p><b>Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.cms.gov/">www.cms.gov/</a></p> <p>US federal agency which administers Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.</p>
<b>COCA</b>	<p><b>Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation</b></p> <p>The AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) serves the public by establishing, maintaining, and applying accreditation standards and procedures to ensure that academic quality and continuous quality improvement delivered by the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) reflect the evolving practice of osteopathic medicine. The scope of the COCA encompasses the accreditation of the COMs.</p>
<b>COGME</b>	<p><b>Council on Graduate Medical Education</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.cogme.gov">www.cogme.gov</a></p> <p>The Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) provides an ongoing assessment of physician workforce trends, training issues and financing policies, and recommends appropriate federal and private sector efforts on these issues. COGME advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce.</p>
<b>COMAT</b>	<p><b>Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.nbome.org/comatmain.asp">https://www.nbome.org/comatmain.asp</a></p> <p>COMAT provides COMs with readily available, nationally standardized examination modules to assess their students, including for the purposes of evaluating educational across varied clinical rotation sites.</p>
<b>COMLEX</b>	<p><b>Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.nbome.org">www.nbome.org</a></p>
<b>CPT</b>	<p><b>Current Procedural Terminology</b></p>
<b>CQI</b>	<p><b>Continuous Quality Improvement</b></p>
<b>CS</b>	<p><b>Clinical Skills Examination</b></p> <p>Part of USMLE Step 2 (see USMLE)</p>
<b>CSA</b>	<p><b>Clinical Skills Assessment</b></p> <p>Part of USMLE Step 2 (see USMLE)</p>
<b>CSE</b>	<p><b>Clinical Skills Examination</b></p> <p>Part of USMLE Step 2 (see USMLE)</p>
<b>CV</b>	<p><b>Curriculum Vitae</b></p> <p>A curriculum vitae (CV), also referred to as a resume, provides an overview of a person's life and qualifications.</p>

<b>CVS</b>	<p><b>Credentialing Verification Process</b>  <a href="http://www.fsmb.org/fcvs.html">www.fsmb.org/fcvs.html</a>  FCVS was established in September 1996 to provide a centralized, uniform process for state medical boards to obtain a verified, primary source record of a physician's core medical credentials. This service is designed to lighten the workload of credentialing staff and reduce duplication of effort by gathering, verifying and permanently storing the physician's and/or physician assistant's credentials in a central repository at the FSMB's offices. FCVS obtains primary source verification of medical education, postgraduate training, examination history, board action history, board certification and identity. This repository of information allows a physician and/or physician assistant to establish a confidential, lifetime professional portfolio with FCVS which can be forwarded, at the physician's request, to any state medical board that has established an agreement with FCVS, hospital, health care or any other entity.</p>
<b>DEA</b>	<p><b>Drug Enforcement Agency</b>  <a href="http://www.justice.gov/dea/index.htm">www.justice.gov/dea/index.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/index.html">http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drugreg/index.html</a>  The Drug Enforcement Agency is a governmental entity which, among many tasks, issued and monitors providers DEA certification.</p>
<b>DGME</b>	<p><b>Direct Graduate Education Funds</b></p>
<b>DME</b>	<p><b>Direct Medical Education payments (from Medicare)</b>  Direct Medical Education (DME) payments cover the direct cost of GME such as stipends and fringe benefits for residents, and salaries and fringe benefits for faculty. (see IME)</p>
<b>DO</b>	<p><b>Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine</b></p>
<b>DOH</b>	<p><b>Department of Health</b>  <a href="https://www2.wa.gov/doh/hpqa-licensing/hps5/Medical/default.htm">https://www2.wa.gov/doh/hpqa-licensing/hps5/Medical/default.htm</a>  Each state has its own, independent department of health. The DOH is responsible for physician licensure, compliance, and patient complaints.</p>
<b>DOL</b>	<p><b>Department of Licensing</b>  See DOH</p>
<b>DRG</b>	<p><b>Diagnostic Related Group</b></p>
<b>ECFMG</b>	<p><b>Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates</b>  <a href="http://www.ecfm.org">www.ecfm.org</a>  Through its program of certification, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) assesses the readiness of international medical graduates to enter residency or fellowship programs in the United States that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).</p>
<b>EHR/EMR</b>	<p><b>Electronic Health/Medical Records</b></p>
<b>ERAS</b>	<p><b>Electronic Residency Application Service</b>  <a href="http://www.aamc.org/programs/eras/programs/start.htm">http://www.aamc.org/programs/eras/programs/start.htm</a>  The Association of American of Medical Colleges (AAMC) developed ERAS®—the Electronic Residency Application Service—to integrate the newest in electronic technologies with the traditional residency application process when use of the computer and the Internet were poised to become a practical means of communication for schools and hospitals. ERAS eases the burden of the applicants, schools, and residency programs by transmitting residency applications materials and supporting credentials from applicants and medical schools to residency programs over the Internet.</p>

<b>EVSP</b>	<p><b>Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program</b>  <a href="http://www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html">www.ecfmg.org/evsp/index.html</a>  The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) is authorized by the U.S. Department of State (DOS) to sponsor foreign national physicians as Exchange Visitors in accredited programs of graduate medical education or training or advanced research programs (involving primarily observation, consultation, teaching or research). Exchange Visitors sponsored by ECFMG receive a Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1 Visa) Status (Form DS-2019). This document is used to apply for the J-1 visa. The objectives of the Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (EVSP) are to enhance international exchange in the field of medicine and to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the interchange of persons, knowledge and skills.</p>
<b>FACOFPP</b>	<b>Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians</b>
<b>FCVS</b>	<p><b>Federation of Credentialing Verification Service</b>  See CVS</p>
<b>FGP</b>	<b>Faculty Group Practice</b>
<b>FFM</b>	<p><b>Future of Family Medicine</b>  <a href="http://www.annfammed.org/content/vol2/suppl_1/">http://www.annfammed.org/content/vol2/suppl_1/</a>  Two years ago, leaders of the seven national family medicine organizations embarked on a serious re-examination of the specialty and the U.S. health care system when they initiated the Future of Family Medicine (FFM) project. The group's goal was ambitious: to develop "strategies to renew and transform the discipline of family medicine to meet the needs of patients in a changing health care environment." Now, work on the first stage of the project is complete. The result is a diverse examination of the specialty and 10 strategic recommendations that will serve as a guide for transforming the discipline.</p>
<b>FMG/IMG</b>	<p><b>Foreign Medical Graduate/International Medical Graduate</b>  A medical student who graduated from a school outside of the United States. See also ECFMG.</p>
<b>FMLA</b>	<p><b>Family and Medical Leave Act</b>  <a href="http://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/index.htm">www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/index.htm</a>  The FMLA is an unpaid mandate (costs paid by employers) requiring larger employers to provide unpaid leave to certain workers in the United States. The law recognizes the growing needs of balancing family, work, and obligations, and promises numerous protections to workers.</p>
<b>FMRNA</b>	<p><b>Family Medicine Residency Nurses Association</b>  <a href="http://www.fmrna.org">www.fmrna.org</a>  A professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of quality health care delivery, education and research in family medicine programs and to the recognition of nurse's contributions to the educational process.</p>
<b>FPIG</b>	<p><b>Family Practice Interest Group</b>  Almost every medical school has a FMIG. Medical students who are interested in going into family medicine residency after graduation belong to these groups, which provide social, education, and professional opportunities.</p>
<b>FPIN</b>	<p><b>Family Practice Information Network</b>  <a href="http://www.fpin.org">www.fpin.org</a>  This is a nation-wide collaborative project to put together a series of questions and answers for family medicine residents, and physicians to utilize in practice.</p>

<b>FQHC</b>	<p><b>Federally Qualified Health Center</b></p> <p>Federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) include all organizations receiving grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS). FQHCs qualify for enhanced reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid, as well as other benefits. FQHCs must serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services, have an ongoing quality assurance program, and have a governing board of directors.</p>
<b>FREIDA</b>	<p><b>Fellowship and Residency Electronic Interactive Database</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html">http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html</a></p> <p>FREIDA Online is a database with over 7,800 graduate medical education programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, as well as over 200 combined specialty programs.</p>
<b>FSMB</b>	<p><b>Federation of State Medical Boards</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.fsmb.org">www.fsmb.org</a></p> <p>The FSMB is responsible for the reporting of exam scores to the state licensing boards. The Federation also operates the Federation Physician Data Center, a nationally recognized system for collecting, recording and distributing to state medical boards and other appropriate agencies data on disciplinary actions taken against licensees by the boards and other governmental authorities.</p>
<b>GME</b>	<p><b>Graduate Medical Education</b></p> <p>Education that happens after a student graduates from medical school. Usually refers to residencies, fellowships, post-doctorate training, and continuing medical education.</p>
<b>GMEC</b>	<p><b>Family Medicine Education Committee</b></p>
<b>GMED</b>	<p><b>Graduate Medical Education Directory</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html">www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2997.html</a></p>
<b>GME Track</b>	<p><b>Graduate Medical Education Track/Census</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.aamc.org/programs/gmetrack/start.htm">http://www.aamc.org/programs/gmetrack/start.htm</a></p> <p>GME Track is a resident database and tracking system that was introduced in March 2000 to assist GME Administrators and program directors in the collection and management of GME data.</p>
<b>HIPAA</b>	<p><b>Health Insurance Portability &amp; Accountability Act</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/">www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/</a></p> <p>The Office for Civil Rights enforces the HIPAA Privacy Rule, which protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information; the HIPAA Security Rule, which sets national standards for the security of electronic protected health information; and the confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule, which protect identifiable information being used to analyze patient safety events and improve patient safety.</p>
<b>HIT</b>	<p><b>Health Information Technology</b></p>
<b>HMO</b>	<p><b>Health Maintenance Organization</b></p> <p>A health maintenance organization (HMO) is a type of managed care organization (MCO) that provides a form of health care coverage in the US that is fulfilled through hospitals, doctors, and other providers with which the HMO has a contract.</p>
<b>HPSA</b>	<p><b>Health Professional Shortage Area</b></p> <p>Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), population (for example, low income or Medicaid eligible) or facilities (for example, federally qualified health center or other state or federal prisons).</p>



<b>HRSA</b>	<p><b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>  <a href="http://www.hrsa.gov/">www.hrsa.gov/</a>  HRSA is the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable.</p>
<b>HSC</b>	<p><b>Health Sciences Center</b></p>
<b>ICD9</b>	<p><b>International Classification of Diseases</b></p>
<b>IHS</b>	<p><b>Indian Health Service</b>  <a href="http://www.ihs.gov/">www.ihs.gov/</a>  US Department of Health and Human Services agency providing healthcare to Native American and Alaskan Native peoples.</p>
<b>IME</b>	<p><b>Indirect Medical Education payment (from Medicare)</b>  Indirect Medical Education (IME) payments cover expenses associated with treatment of severely ill patients and the additional costs related to teaching residents in approved GME training programs. IME payments consider variation in case mix and number of FTE residents in GME programs. (see DME)</p>
<b>IMG</b>	<p><b>International Medical Graduate</b>  An international medical graduate (IMG), earlier known as a foreign medical graduate (FMG), is a physician who has graduated from a medical school outside of the country where he or she intends to practice (generally this includes the Caribbean medical schools).</p>
<b>IOM</b>	<p><b>Institute of Medicine</b>  <a href="http://www.iom.edu">www.iom.edu</a>  The Institute of Medicine (IOM) is an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public. The IOM asks and answers the nation's most pressing questions about health and health care.</p>
<b>ITE</b>	<p><b>In-training Assessment Examination</b>  Annual exam that all residents take the First Friday in November. See ABFM.</p>
<b>JCAHO</b>	<p><b>Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations</b>  JCAHO evaluates the quality and safety of care for nearly 16,000 health care organizations. To maintain and earn accreditation, organizations must have an extensive on-site review by a team of JCAHO health care professionals, at least once every three years. The purpose of the review is to evaluate the organization's performance in areas that affect your care. Accreditation may then be awarded based on how well the organizations met JCAHO standards. (See new name, TJC.)</p>
<b>LCME</b>	<p><b>Liaison Committee on Medical Education</b>  <a href="http://www.lcme.org/">www.lcme.org/</a>  The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the nationally recognized accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in U.S. and Canadian medical schools. The LCME is sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association.</p>
<b>LOA</b>	<p><b>Letter of Agreement</b></p>
<b>LOI</b>	<p><b>Letter of Intent</b></p>

<b>KCMS</b>	<p><b>King County Medical Society</b>  <a href="http://www.kcmsociety.org">http://www.kcmsociety.org</a>  Society of physicians (all specialties) in the greater King County area that provides education, social, and professional development.</p>
<b>MD</b>	<p><b>Medical Doctor (allopathic physician)</b></p>
<b>MGMA</b>	<p><b>Medical Group Management Association</b>  <a href="http://www.mgma.com/">www.mgma.com/</a>  MGMA is a membership association for professional administrators and leaders of medical group practices. The association provides networking, education, and leadership opportunities.</p>
<b>MOC</b>	<p><b>Maintenance of Certification</b>  <a href="http://www.theabfm.org/moc/index.aspx">www.theabfm.org/moc/index.aspx</a>  Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) is the process that provides the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) with the means to continually assess Diplomates.</p>
<b>MPIP</b>	<p><b>Medical Practice Income Plan</b></p>
<b>NAPCRG</b>	<p><b>North American Primary Care Research Group</b>  <a href="http://www.napcrg.org">www.napcrg.org</a>  The North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) is a multidisciplinary organization for primary care researchers. Founded in 1972 and oriented to family medicine, NAPCRG welcomes members from all primary care generalist disciplines and related fields, including epidemiology, behavioral sciences, and health services research.</p>
<b>NBME</b>	<p><b>National Board of Medical Examiners</b>  <a href="http://www.nbme.org/">www.nbme.org/</a>  The NBME is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides high-quality examinations for the health professions. Protection of the health of the public through state of the art assessment of health professionals is the mission of the NBME, along with a major commitment to research and development in evaluation and measurement.</p>
<b>NBOME</b>	<p><b>National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners</b>  <a href="http://www.nbome.org">www.nbome.org</a>  The mission of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.</p>
<b>NCFMRMS</b>	<p><b>National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students</b>  <a href="http://www.aafp.org/conference.xml">http://www.aafp.org/conference.xml</a>  This annual AAFP sponsored conference is held in Kansas City and medical students and residents attend. It has many education seminars about family medicine, residency programs, procedures, etc. We send our two chiefs resident to help staff the UWAFPRN booth. It is a great way to recruit medical students to our residency and residents to our fellowships.</p>
<b>NHSC</b>	<p><b>National Health Service Corps</b>  <a href="http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/">http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/</a>  The National Health Service Corps (NHSC), through scholarship and loan repayment programs, helps Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in the U.S. get the medical, dental, and mental health providers they need to meet their tremendous need for health care.</p>
<b>NI</b>	<p><b>New Innovations</b>  <a href="http://www.new-innov.com">www.new-innov.com</a>  New Innovations is the online residency management tool we use at SFM to collect evaluations, track procedures, record duty hours, schedules, etc.</p>

- NIPDD**      **National Institute of Program Directors Development**  
[www.afprd.org](http://www.afprd.org)  
This fellowship is for family medicine educators who wish to enhance and develop leadership skills in order to be better prepared to be program directors. A subgroup of the AFMRD.
- NMS**      **National Matching Service (osteopathic match)**  
[www.natmatch.com](http://www.natmatch.com)  
The AOA Intern/Resident Registration Program is a matching program that places students into osteopathic training positions in the United States for the first postdoctoral year of training (OGME-1). The Intern/Resident Registration Program (the "Match") is sponsored and supervised by the AOA. The Match is administered on behalf of the AOA by National Matching Service.
- NPDB**      **National Practitioner Databank**  
[www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/](http://www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/)  
The NPDB is primarily an alert or flagging system intended to facilitate a comprehensive review of health care practitioners' professional credentials. The information contained in the NPDB is intended to direct discrete inquiry into, and scrutiny of, specific areas of a practitioner's licensure, professional society memberships, medical malpractice payment history, and record of clinical privileges. The information contained in the NPDB should be considered together with other relevant data in evaluating a practitioner's credentials; it is intended to augment, not replace, traditional forms of credentials review.
- NPI**      **National Provider Identifier**  
<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do>  
The Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandated the adoption of a standard unique identifier for health care providers. The National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) collects identifying information on health care providers and assigns each a unique National Provider Identifier (NPI). This number is assigned to the provider and follows them during their career, regardless of where they are practicing.
- NRHA**      **National Rural Health Association**  
[www.ruralhealthweb.org/](http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/)  
The association's mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues. NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.
- NRMP**      **National Residency Matching Program**  
[www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org)  
The National Resident Matching Program is a private, not-for-profit corporation established in 1952 to provide a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education (GME) in the United States. The NRMP is the parent organization of ERAS and provides all timetables, rules, and regulations regarding the match.
- NRO**      **New Resident Orientation**
- NRP**      **Neonatal Resuscitation Program**  
[www.aap.org/nrp/nrpsmain.html](http://www.aap.org/nrp/nrpsmain.html)  
(Formerly called NALS/PALS - Neonatal Advanced Life Support/Pediatric Advanced Life Support)
- OMT**      **Osteopathic manipulative treatment**  
Hands-on care that involves using the hands to diagnose, treat, and prevent illness or injury – such as asthma, sinus disorders, carpal tunnel syndrome, migraines, menstrual pain – by moving the muscles and joints using techniques including stretching, gentle pressure and resistance.

<b>ORR</b>	<b>Organization of Resident Representative</b> <a href="https://www.aamc.org/members/orr/">https://www.aamc.org/members/orr/</a>
<b>OSHA</b>	<b>Occupational Safety and Health Administration</b> <a href="http://www.osha.org">www.osha.org</a> OSHA is the main federal agency charged with the enforcement of safety and health legislation.
<b>OSR</b>	<b>Organization of Student Representatives</b> <a href="https://www.aamc.org/members/osr/">https://www.aamc.org/members/osr/</a>
<b>P4</b>	<b>Preparing the Personal Physician for Practice</b> <a href="http://www.transformed.com/p4.cfm">www.transformed.com/p4.cfm</a> TransforMED coordinates a residency demonstration initiative known as P <sup>4</sup> – which stands for Preparing the Personal Physician for Practice. P <sup>4</sup> is leading the transformation of family medicine residency education training to prepare tomorrow's physicians for new models of care and demonstrate the value of science-based, high quality, patient centered primary care. See also TransforMed.
<b>PCMH</b>	<b>Patient-centered Medical Home</b> The patient-centered medical home is a way of organizing primary care that emphasizes care coordination and communication to transform primary care into "what patients want it to be." Medical homes can lead to higher quality and lower costs, and can improve patients' and providers' experience of care.
<b>PCORI</b>	<b>Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute</b> <a href="http://www.pcori.org/">http://www.pcori.org/</a>
<b>PCPCC</b>	<b>Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative</b> <a href="https://www.pcpcc.org">https://www.pcpcc.org</a>
<b>PCP</b>	<b>Primary Care Physician</b>
<b>PD</b>	<b>Program Director</b>
<b>PDW</b>	<b>Program Director Workshop</b>
<b>PECOS</b>	<b>Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System</b> <a href="https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/">https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/</a> PECOS supports the Medicare Provider and Supplier enrollment process by allowing registered users to securely and electronically submit and manage Medicare enrollment information.
<b>PGY</b>	<b>Post Graduate Year</b> PGY-1, PGY-2, etc (aka R1, R2, etc)
<b>PHI</b>	<b>Protected health information</b>
<b>PHS</b>	<b>Public Health Service</b>
<b>PIF</b>	<b>Program Information Form</b> <a href="http://www.acgme.org/">http://www.acgme.org/</a> As part of the accreditation process all residencies must go through, the ACGME conducts site visits. Prior to the site visit, each residency and accredited fellowship must complete a PIF. This form is an overall summary of each area of your program including staffing, curricular areas, sponsorship, etc. The site visitor verifies all areas of the PIF through information meetings and interviews and then brings the PIF and their comments to the RRC for accreditation review. See ACGME and RRC.

<b>PLA</b>	<b>Program Letter of Agreement</b>
<b>PPO</b>	<b>Preferred Provider Organization</b>
<b>PSNHC</b>	<p><b>Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers</b>  <a href="http://www.psnhc.org">http://www.psnhc.org</a>  Puget Sound Neighborhood Health Centers owns and operates several medical and dental clinics in the Puget Sound area. One of these is the 45<sup>th</sup> St. Clinic, which is a former residency satellite clinic of our program.</p>
<b>QI</b>	<b>Quality Improvement</b>
<b>RAP</b>	<p><b>Residency Assistance Program</b>  (see RPS)</p>
<b>RBRVU</b>	<b>Resource Based Relative Value Unit</b>
<b>RC-FM</b>	<p><b>Review Committee for Family Medicine</b>  (formerly RRC-FM) see RRC</p>
<b>RPA</b>	<b>Resident Performance Assessment</b>
<b>RPS</b>	<p><b>Residency Program Solutions</b>  <a href="http://www.aafp.org/medical-school-residency/program-directors/rps.html">http://www.aafp.org/medical-school-residency/program-directors/rps.html</a>  A subgroup of the AAFP which provides educational and program support to faculty, directors, and administrators of residency programs. They have set criteria for programs of excellence, have an annual RPS workshop in Kansas City, and also have site visitors who perform consultations. RPS is not an accreditation or regulatory body, but is for the help and education of residency programs. (formerly called RAP)</p>
<b>RPS</b>	<b>Resident Portfolio System</b>
<b>RRC</b>	<p><b>Residency Review Committee</b>  <a href="http://www.acgme.org">http://www.acgme.org</a>  The RRC is subgroup of the ACGME. The RRC is the accreditation body of physicians and doctoral professionals that conduct site visit and reviews site visitors comments and residency program PIF's to determine accreditation and length of time between site visits. Name recently changed to RC-FM, see above.</p>
<b>RTM</b>	<p><b>Resident Training Management</b>  <a href="https://rtm.theabfm.org/">https://rtm.theabfm.org/</a>  This online system allows Family Practice Residency Programs to enter and maintain relevant data about their Residents in regards to the American Board of Family Medicine.</p>
<b>RVU</b>	<b>Relative Value Unit</b>
<b>SNMA</b>	<p><b>Student National Medical Association</b>  <a href="http://www.snma.org">www.snma.org</a>  The Student National Medical Association is the nation's oldest and largest independent, student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color.</p>
<b>SOM</b>	<b>School of Medicine</b>

<b>SOMA</b>	<p><b>Student Osteopathic Medical Association</b>  <a href="http://www.studentdo.com">www.studentdo.com</a>  The purpose of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association, the student affiliate organization of the American Osteopathic Association, is to promote osteopathic ideals and unity within the profession, to educate future osteopathic physicians, and to establish and to maintain lines of communication among healthcare professionals in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of healthcare.</p>
<b>SON</b>	<p><b>School of Nursing</b></p>
<b>STFM</b>	<p><b>Society of Teachers of Family Medicine</b>  <a href="http://www.stfm.org">www.stfm.org</a>  STFM is dedicated to improving the health of all people through education, research, patient care, and advocacy. They provide faculty development, cultural awareness, quality improvement, and technology advancements. Most members are residency program faculty and community preceptors.</p>
<b>THC</b>	<p><b>Teaching Health Center</b>  <a href="http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/teachinghealthcenters/">http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/teachinghealthcenters/</a>  The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (GME) program is a \$230 million, 5-year initiative created by the Affordable Care Act to increase the number of primary care residents and dentists trained in community-based settings.</p>
<b>TIVRA</b>	<p><b>Trainee Information Verification and Registration Audit</b></p>
<b>TJC</b>	<p><b>The Joint Commission</b>  <a href="http://www.jointcommission.org/">http://www.jointcommission.org/</a>  See former name, JCAHO</p>
<b>TransforMed</b>	<p><b>TransforMed</b>  <a href="http://www.transformed.com">www.transformed.com</a>  TransforMED is focused on practice redesign and affiliated with the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). TransforMED facilitators are using lessons learned from pilot projects to offer facilitation services, collaboration environments and learning opportunities that support and empower primary care practices across the country as they implement the TransforMED Patient-Centered Model. See also P4.</p>
<b>UME/UGME</b>	<p><b>Undergraduate Medical information</b>  (i.e. medical school training)</p>
<b>USMLE</b>	<p><b>United States Medical License Exam</b>  <a href="http://www.usmle.org">www.usmle.org</a>  The United States Medical Licensing Examination is sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB)of the United States, Inc., and the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®). Results of the USMLE are reported to medical licensing authorities in the United States and its territories for use in granting the initial license to practice medicine. There are three steps to the USMLE. Step one is generally taken in medical school. Step two is taken in medical school or at the beginning of the R1 year. Step three is taken in the R2 year.</p>
<b>UWFMRN</b>	<p><b>University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network</b></p>

<http://depts.washington.edu/fammed/network>

The University of Washington Family Medicine Residency Network is a group of family medicine residency programs related to each other by geography and university affiliation. The Network consists of affiliated residency programs located within the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho). The Network strives to promote excellence in family medicine residency education, provide academic leadership, and to respond to societal needs for family physicians. The quality of the individual programs is high, reflected in the number and quality of applicants and residents, the excellence of the faculty, and the strong support of the sponsoring hospitals in providing up-to-date facilities and skilled staff.

**VA**                    **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Web-ADS**           **Web Accreditation Data Collection System**

[www.acgme.org/AccProg/ADSintro.asp](http://www.acgme.org/AccProg/ADSintro.asp)

The Web Accreditation Data System (ADS) is 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.

**WHO**                    **World Health Organization**

[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

**WONCA**                **World Organization of Family Doctors**

[www.globalfamilydoctor.com](http://www.globalfamilydoctor.com)

The mission of Wonca is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through defining and promoting its values, and by fostering and maintaining high standards of care in general practice/family medicine by promoting personal, comprehensive and continuing care for the individual in the context of the family and the community, encouraging and supporting the development of academic organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and information between member organizations of general practitioners/family physicians, and representing the educational, research and service provision activities of general practitioners/family physicians before other world organizations and forums concerned with health and medical care.

**WSMA**                    **Washington State Medical Association**

[www.wsma.org](http://www.wsma.org)

The WSMA is a private, non-profit membership organization for physicians, funded by physician membership dues, not by the state. They work on behalf of members and their patients to provide educational seminars, physician advocacy efforts, lobbying and other services.