



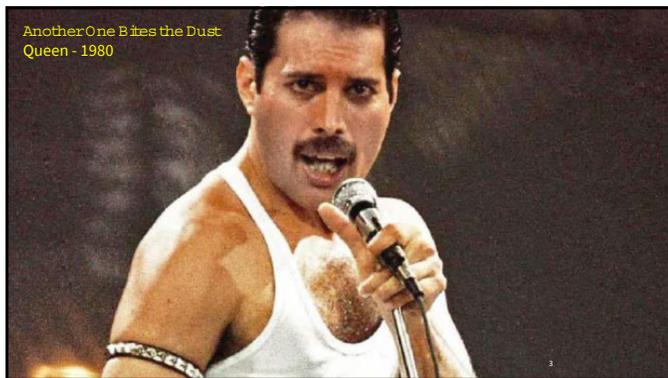
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Another One Bites the Dust: VA Disbursement Agreements, Mergers & Resident Transfers

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Another One Bites the Dust
Queen - 1980

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Presenter Disclosures

Keith Cook, DPM, FACFAS

- Consultant, Advisor, or Speaker, DePuy Synthes Osteomed
- Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME):
 - Council Chair
 - 320/330 Ad Hoc, Chair

Mark Hardy, DPM, FACFAS

- Consultant, Advisor, or Speaker, Stryker, ActivOrtho
- More than 2% Financial Interest, Medical Education And Research Center Of Illinois (MERC) Surgical Design Innovations
- Intellectual Property Rights, Surgical Design Innovations
- Chairman and Professor of Surgery, Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
- Program Director, Mercy Health Foot & Ankle Residency
- Director, Global Foot and Ankle Community

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Presenter Disclosures Cont'd

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- Chair, AACPM Council of Teaching Hospitals
- Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME):
 - 320 Ad Hoc, Committee Member
 - Residency Review Committee, Member effective March 2022
- Cleveland Veterans Affairs Site Director for Mercy Health Regional Medical Center PMSR/RA
- President of Podiatry Residency Resource
- Veterans Affairs National Field Advisor for Podiatry

Susan Claffey, MBA

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Why VA Disbursement Agreements?

1. The Mission Act October 2018 opened the door.
2. ACGME Parallel – previously not an option.
3. Description of new model – NOT a merger. VA becomes an affiliate. VA program essentially closes. Removed from CASPR/CPME as annual registrations occur.
4. The disbursement agreement is the vehicle to allow conversion of existing VA residency programs to the new model.
5. Not all programs are currently able or desire conversion to the new model. However, the VA is encouraging residency directors to begin establishing relationships with potential affiliate sponsors as this provides the VA the most flexibility as demands for new residency positions develop.

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Who?

- To date 10 of 38 VA podiatric residency programs have converted (26%).
- These combined programs provide 105 positions per academic year for a total of 315.

Albuquerque VAMC	4/4/4	Lebanon VAMC	1/1/1	Phoenix VAMC	4/4/4
Atlanta VAMC: Program Paused	0/0/0	Loma Linda VAMC	3/3/3	UPMC/Pittsburgh VAMC	5/5/5
Augusta VAMC	1/1/1	Madison VAMC	2/2/2	Roger Williams/ Providence VAMC	3/3/3
Sinai /Baltimore VAMC	4/4/4	Miami VAMC	2/2/2	Richmond VAMC	1/1/1
Bay Pines VAMC	1/1/1	Montgomery VAMC	1/1/1	Salem VAMC	1/1/1
Buffalo/ Catholic Health System Buffalo, NY	5/5/5	Mountain Home VAMC	1/1/1	Intermountain/Salt Lake City VAMC	6/6/6
Chicago Westside VAMC	3/3/3	New York VAMC	4/4/4	UTHSC/San Antonio VAMC	3/3/3
Mercy/Cleveland VAMC	8/8/8	North Chicago VAMC	2/1/1	San Francisco VAMC	2/2/2
Danville VAMC	2/2/2	Stony Brook/Northport VAMC	3/3/3	Seattle VAMC	
Dayton VAMC	3/3/3	Orlando VAMC	1/1/1	Tampa VAMC	3/3/3
Denver VAMC	3/3/3/1	Palo Alto VAMC	4/4/4	Scott & White/Temple VAMC	4/4/4
East Orange VAMC	2/3/3	Philadelphia VAMC	1/1/1	Tucson VAMC	4/4/4
Affiliate Sponsored		Yale/West Haven VAMC	5/5/5	UCLA/ West Los Angeles VAMC	4/4/4

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Disbursement in the Real World

- VA Perspective
 - 1/6th rule, workload and stipends
 - Start with identifying partner that complements the VA program.
 - Cleveland VA desired electives, pediatrics and private practice experiences.
 - Mercy seen as benefiting from hospital based inpatient experiences, advanced pathology and trauma. Care agreement with orthopedics at the VA defers all lower extremity care to the podiatry service.
 - Perfect fit!
 - Cleveland VA 2/2/2 + Mercy Health 6/6/6 = 24 positions 8/8/8
 - 6 residents become 72 months of training- residents rotate equivalent of 72 months
 - VA disburses funds to Mercy to equal 72 months of training

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Process(es)

- GME and the Annual VA SOE = position request - Sept 2019
- Connected with Dr. Hardy at Mercy Health Regional - July 2020
- Notified the Office of Academic Affiliations within the VA and the Council on Podiatric Medical Education for guidance - July 2020
- Two processes involved
 - OAA - provides templates and guidelines/deadlines for the process
 - CPME requirements easily met - follow existing protocol
 - Communication is key!
- Meanwhile... we reviewed rotations to optimize resources
 - VA provides core rotations, podiatry clinic and surgery

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Timeline

- CPME 345 - Application of Increase and Reclassification of positions
- Affiliate acknowledgement template - November 2020
- Description of Resident Selection/transition process - November 2020
- Council on Podiatric Medical Education LOI - November 2020
- Base Allocation Confirmation - December 2020
- Establish affiliation agreement - January 2021
- Establish Disbursement agreement - February 2021
- Verify matched positions March - May 2021
- Establish Rate schedule - June 2021
- Begin program via disbursement - July 2021

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Pinch point - 1st payment

- Educational Activity Reports (EARS) report
 - completed by VA site director quarterly
 - Accounts for all days/hours a resident spends at the VA affiliate
 - Process generates invoice for payment to Mercy
- VA Vendor form - completed by May prior to July start!
 - Enables the VA to disburse funds to Mercy



WARNING
PINCH POINT

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Disbursement in the Real World

- Affiliate Perspective
 - Reflections by Mark Hardy, DPM and Program Director at Mercy Health



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CPME Policy and Procedures

- CPME 330, *Procedures for Approval of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Residencies* does not identify a specific protocol for the change in program sponsorship as discussed in previous slides.
- The RRC discussed if a new policy was needed to address program mergers. The Committee decided a new procedure was not required and that the disbursements fall under program transfers.
- The Council did approve the related following policy in October 2021 for when an existing PMSR assumes the residents of a closing VA program:
 - When an institution accepts multiple residents from a program that is closing, CPME will continue to require the institution submit the CPME 345, Application for Increase in Positions, and the corresponding fee. Program swill need to follow the procedure for resident transfer for all residents entering the program ; however, the transfer fee will only be assessed for a single resident.

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A Word on GME Funding and Resident Transfers

- The initial residency period for podiatry, is defined as the minimum requirement is the minimum number of years of formal training necessary to satisfy the requirements of the appropriate approving body for certification in a specialty or subspecialty.
 - Podiatry = lifetime total of 3 years
 - GME Funding only applies to the initial residency period.
- GME funding follows the resident. If a program accepts a resident transfer the receiving program receives the remainder of the resident's 3 year funding.
- A resident transfer that includes repeating a year or more of residency could result in the loss of GME funding for any years exceeding 3 years of training for that resident.

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Questions?

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