



Intealth's Recognized Accreditation Policy fosters global accreditation efforts, promotes harmonized standards for evaluating undergraduate medical education, and provides valuable information about the accreditation of medical schools 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. Implementation of the Recognized Accreditation Policy began in November 2024.



ECFMG[™]
A Division of Intealth

ECFMG[®], a division of Intealth, serves the public by assuring the qualifications of health care professionals.

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

The policy in effect has **no impact** on eligibility for ECFMG Certification. Please see below for further details on the policy's implementation.

Implementation

What's New

With the implementation of the Recognized Accreditation Policy, information related to the policy is being reported as described below:

- **Notation in World Directory:** If a medical school currently meets the requirements of the Recognized Accreditation Policy, a notation stating this will be included on the Sponsor Notes tab in the school's listing in the *World Directory of Medical Schools*. This reporting provides valuable information to current and future medical students, medical regulatory authorities, and others around the world.
- **General Information in ERAS[®]:** In the future, a general statement about the policy will be added to ECFMG Status Reports for students and graduates applying to U.S. GME positions through ERAS and similar services. This statement will provide an overview of the policy but will not be applicant- or school-specific.

What Has Not Changed

Implementation of the policy does not impact:

- 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.ecfm.org/certification/.
- Medical school eligibility for an ECFMG Sponsor Note. More information is available at www.ecfm.org/resources/sponsor-notes.html.
- Users of other ECFMG services, such as EPICSM.

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.
- 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.

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/. Specific questions regarding the policy may be sent to rap@intealth.org.