

Frequently Asked Questions: Neuromuscular Medicine
Review Committees for Neurology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
ACGME

Question	Answer
Institutions	
Can the fellowship be completed over two years instead of one year? <i>[Program Requirement: Int. C.]</i>	The 12 required months of rotations may be completed over 24 months, as long as the fellow completes at least six months of the fellowship per academic year. The other half of the time may be used for personal reasons, research, or other academic pursuits. The program must receive approval from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) before accepting a fellow into the program half time.
Program Personnel and Resources	
Does the program director need to have ABPN certification in neuromuscular medicine? <i>[Program Requirement: II.A.3.b)]</i>	The program director must have current certification in neuromuscular medicine by the ABPN or the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR).
Must faculty members be board certified in neuromuscular medicine by the ABPN, or will alternative board certifications be accepted? <i>[Program Requirement: II.B.3.]</i>	While not every faculty member must be ABPN-certified in neuromuscular medicine, all eligible faculty members teaching in the program must be ABPN-certified in either neuromuscular medicine or clinical neurophysiology.
Educational Program	
Do fellows need to manage patients in outpatient and inpatient settings? <i>[Program Requirement: IV.B.1.b).(1).(a)]</i>	Neuromuscular medicine fellows should have experience in direct management of neuromuscular medicine patients in the outpatient area with direct or consultative management in inpatient and intensive care settings. They must demonstrate skills, have formal instruction, and clinical experience to manage inpatients and outpatients with neuromuscular diseases.
How should the requirement for elective time be met? <i>[Program Requirement IV.C.4.b)]</i>	Fellows should have designated elective time to pursue individual interests. This can be accomplished either in rotation blocks or as longitudinal experiences on a weekly basis, but must be clearly delineated as elective time.
What is an appropriate range of research or	The majority (at least 51 percent) of the faculty must participate in the scholarship of:

Question	Answer
<p data-bbox="184 235 684 267">scholarly activity for faculty members?</p> <p data-bbox="184 300 638 332"><i>[Program Requirement: IV.D.2.a.)]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="814 267 1871 332">a) discovery, as evidenced by peer-reviewed funding or by publication of original research in a peer-reviewed journal; <li data-bbox="814 332 1829 365">b) dissemination, as evidenced by review articles or chapters in textbooks; or, <li data-bbox="814 365 1915 462">c) application, as evidenced by the publication or presentation of, for example, case reports, clinical series, or didactic lectures, at local, regional, or national professional and scientific society meetings. <p data-bbox="760 503 1915 565">Scholarly activities may also include participation in academic societies, leadership roles in professional societies, journal club, and grand rounds presentations.</p>

Evaluation

How can a program provide objective assessment of fellow competency?

[Program Requirement: V.A. 1.c]

See the table below for examples.

Competency	Examples of Documentation
Patient Care and Procedural Skills	Milestones, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), mini-clinical evaluation exercise (mini-CEX), direct observation, structured case discussions, role-play or simulation, chart review, etc.
Medical Knowledge	Milestones, OSCEs, global assessment, direct observation, structured case discussions, other exams, etc.
Practice-based Learning and Improvement	Milestones, fellow portfolios, global assessment, conferences presented by fellows, patient education materials developed by fellows, quality performance measures, chart review, etc.
Interpersonal and Communication Skills	OSCEs, Milestones, Neurology Clinical Evaluation Exercise (NEX), global assessment, direct observation, multi-source feedback, patient surveys, role-play or simulation, etc.
Professionalism	Milestones, fellow portfolios, global assessment, direct observation, multi-source feedback, patient surveys, etc.
Systems-Based Practice	Milestones, fellow portfolios, global assessment, multi-source feedback, quality measures, chart review, etc.

What types of information should be reviewed when performing the

Some specific examples of information programs should use in their reviews are:

<p>Annual Program Evaluation?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: V.C.1.]</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-identified fellow and faculty member comments • Sponsoring Institution's GMEC review, if applicable • Resources available at each participating site • Quality of supervision • Goals and objectives • ACGME Faculty and Fellow Survey results • Meeting minutes • Milestones • Faculty member and fellow scholarly activity • Board pass rate in last year <p>This list is not meant to be exhaustive.</p>
<p>Who should annually review curriculum goals and objectives and assess whether they have been met?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: V.C.1.]</i></p>	<p>In addition to the faculty members of the Program Evaluation Committee, at least one fellow must serve on the committee, and all fellows must have input into the program evaluation process. Goals and objectives should be reviewed as part of this process.</p>
<p>Is ABPN certification of eligible program graduates important in program evaluation?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirements: V.C.1]</i></p>	<p>Yes, graduate pass rate on the ABPN neuromuscular medicine board exam is one measure of educational effectiveness of the program, and will be considered an important outcome measure by the Review Committee. Pass rates on other board exams are not considered equivalent.</p>
<p>The Learning and Working Environment</p>	
<p>What does the Review Committee consider an optimal clinical workload?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: VI.E.1]</i></p>	<p>The program director must make an assessment of the learning environment, including patient safety, complexity of patient illness/condition, available support services, and the fellow's level of knowledge, skills, and abilities when determining the appropriate clinical workload for each fellow.</p>
<p>Who should be included in the interprofessional teams?</p> <p><i>[Program Requirement: VI.E.2.]</i></p>	<p>Nurses, pharmacists, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, and occupational, physical, and speech therapists, are examples of professional personnel who may be part of interprofessional teams on which fellows must work as members. This list is not exhaustive.</p>
<p>Must every interprofessional team</p>	<p>No. The Review Committee recognizes that the needs of specific patients change with their</p>

include representation from every profession listed above? <i>[Program Requirement: VI.E.2.]</i>	health statuses and circumstances. The Review Committee's intent is to ensure that the program has access to these professional and paraprofessional personnel, and that interprofessional teams be constituted as appropriate and as needed, not to mandate that all be included in every case.
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