GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION REFORM
A DE-CENTRALIZED APPROACH

John S. O’Shea, MD, MPA
National Academy for State Health Policy
October 20, 2015

Graduate Medical Education Reform

- History/Evolution
- Purpose of GME
- Current structure/Current problems
  - Financing
  - Oversight/Governance
- Workforce Issues
- GME reform agenda
Graduate Medical Education Reform
History

- Early 20th Century: GME self-directed
- 1920s-30s: Specialty Boards
- WWII/GI Bill/Hill-Burton Act
- 1965: Medicare
- 1997: BBA/Caps

Graduate Medical Education Reform
Current Structure

Financing
- Government funding: $15.5 B
  Medicare: $9.7 B (Tied to # of “Medicare beds”)
    DGME $2.6 B (29.2%)
    IME: $6.8 B (70.8%)
    Medicaid: $3.9 B
  VA: $1.4 B
  HRSA: $4.6 M
- Private sources: Unknown but significant
Graduate Medical Education Reform
Current Structure

Governance/Oversight
  • Federal
  CGME
  MedPAC
  NHWC
  HRSA/BHP
  CMS
  • Private Sector
  ACGME
  ABMS
  BOS/COPT
  ECFMG

Goals of GME

- Produce competent health care providers

- Produce the proper mix of providers
  Number
  Specialty
  Geographic distribution
Graduate Medical Education
Current Problems

- Financing
  - Level of Federal funding
  - Funding linked to inpatient Medicare beds
  - Appropriateness of IME
  - Funding goes directly to training programs
  - Contingent only on program accreditation
  - Stability of current funding

- Governance/Oversight
  - Uncoordinated
  - Lack of accountability
  - Lack of cost data
  - Lack of Quality metrics

O'Shea
Graduate Medical Education Reform
Current Problems

- Workforce issues
  - Geographic disparities
  - Specialty distribution
  - Driven by needs of the institution
  - No account for evolving payment/delivery reforms

Graduate Medical Education Reform
Decentralized Policy Agenda

- Consolidate government funding
- Transition to an appropriate level of funding
- States should manage funding
- Funding should follow the trainee
- Federal funding should encourage, not supplant state and private funding
Graduate Medical Education Reform

Possible Timeline
- Years 1 & 2: Government funding unchanged
- Year 3: 1/3 funding to states
- Year 4: 2/3 funding to states
- Year 5: all funding to states
- Years 6-10: Transition government funding to appropriate level

Thank you!