



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL  
5109 LEESBURG PIKE  
FALLS CHURCH VA 22041-3258



DASG-PSZ-MG

7 March 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Compliance with Army Weight and Physical Fitness Standards for Participation in Graduate Medical Education (GME)

1. Compliance with Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and height/weight standards is a requirement for all active duty personnel. Failure to meet these standards can have a negative impact on immediate and long-term career progression. It is the policy of The Surgeon General that all Medical Corps (MC) officers must be in compliance with APFT and height/weight standards for entry into Graduate Medical Education (GME) at the Postgraduate year two and above levels. This policy is monitored and enforced by the Directorate of Medical Education. In this regard, each GME Medical Treatment Facility must provide the GME Division, Medical Education Directorate, Office of The Surgeon General (OTSG) ATTN: DASG-PSZ-MG, with a status report annually no later than the first week of May, confirming that all individuals who have been selected for entry into GME are in compliance with APFT and height/weight standards. Those individuals who are not in compliance, are at risk of having their GME selection withdrawn.
2. Physicians in training are expected to comply with APFT and height/weight standards. Failure to pass the APFT and meet height/weight is a personnel issue and adverse action resulting from this should be imposed, as it would be for any active duty MC officer and not specifically for GME trainees. Specifically, this should not be used as the sole justification to prevent academic advancement or deny graduation from training. The GME Office, Medical Education Directorate, Office of The Surgeon General must be notified if any action is initiated regarding a GME trainee, regardless of the reason, that results in denial of advancement in or separation from training.
3. Program Directors and institutions must provide trainees with the time and assistance to address physical fitness and weight issues. Trainees should be counseled on the potential consequences of noncompliance and supported in their efforts to meet standards. Compliance with APFT and meet height/weight standards should be monitored by program directors and the hospital Graduate Medical Education Committee. Documentation of compliance is done on the annual officer evaluation report.
4. Physicians in GME have either previously incurred and/or are incurring an active duty service obligation (ADSO). Failure to pass the APFT and/or meet height/weight does not relieve an individual of the requirement to complete the ADSO. Those who do not complete GME may be utilized as general medical officers; they will not be involuntarily separated from active duty until they complete their obligated service.

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5. My point of contact for this issue is Mrs. Dee Pfeiffer, Chief, GME Division. She can be reached at DSN 761-4804.

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6. This policy supersedes Memorandum MCHO-ME-GME, dated 26 May 1998, SAB and Memorandum MCHO-ME-GME, dated 16 December 1998, SAB.

FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL:



ERIC B. SCHOOMAKER  
Brigadier General, MC  
Chief, Medical Corps

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