

FILE
AMA ESSENTIALS

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

PHYSICIAN'S ASSOCIATE PROGRAM
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MEMORANDUM TO: Drs. Anlyan, Kinney, Bulger, Sabiston, Wyngaarden, Estes, Lester, Katz, Pounds, Christakos, Tommy Thompson, Larry Thompson, Schlein, Goldwater, Gianturco, Short, Charlie Johnson, Detmer, Nuckolls, Pondy and Messrs. Mau, Lewis, Berry, Toth, and McQueary

FROM: D. Robert Howard, M.D.

RE: AMA Activities in Developing Educational Essentials for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician

The enclosed materials reflect the latest information available with reference to the development of Educational Essentials for the assistant to the primary care physician.

Although the information contained herein is largely self-explanatory, I would like to direct your attention to paragraph 2 under the heading ESSENTIALS on page 3 regarding the use of terminology and nomenclature. In drafting these essentials the wording has been such that all students enrolled in our Physician's Associate Program will meet the qualifications for the "assistant to the primary care physician" following the completion of the first year courses and the two general medical rotations (medical inpatient service and medical outpatient emergency service). The additional portions of our curriculum in all specialties would be above and beyond the basic requirements.

It was felt by the Committee that "specialty assistants" (such as the orthopedic assistant) whose training is limited exclusively to one discipline would have to be considered individually. That is any specialty organization wanting to develop a strictly "specialty assistant" would have to develop their own educational essentials. However, people who complete a course of general instruction in compliance with these enclosed essentials who subsequently receive additional specialty training can be considered under these criteria even though they may ultimately work with a physician not engaged in the delivery of primary health care services.

I foresee that as this Committee carries on its deliberations for the purpose of establishing certification criteria, the basic elements of this "generalist" assistant will be certified on a national basis by the AMA and certification for subsequent specialty training beyond that point will be undertaken by another group or groups.

As you will see in reviewing the minutes of the meeting, every effort is going to be made for getting the approval of the participating organizations in time to have these essentials considered by the AMA House of Delegates at their November

meeting. Because of the very tight time schedule, I would like to request that any of you who have suggested changes please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

As further developments along these lines take place, I will be in touch with you again so that you might stay informed of the progress being made.



D. Robert Howard, M.D.
Director

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Enclosure

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