

SUBJECT: Advocating for the Integration of Addiction Medicine Training
Guidelines into Family Medicine Residency Programs

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Resident Council

REFERRED TO: 2025 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)
Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 WHEREAS, Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) continue to be a major public health issue, impacting
2 millions of people in the United States, with the opioid crisis intensifying the demand for
3 thorough medical education to effectively address drug addiction ¹; and
4

5 WHEREAS, primary care physicians, including family medicine doctors, often serve as the first point of
6 contact for individuals with addiction and other substance use disorders, performing a critical
7 role in early intervention, treatment, and ongoing management¹; and
8

9 WHEREAS, many family medicine residency programs lack formalized addiction medicine training to
10 adequately prepare residents to care for patients with SUDs²; and
11

12 WHEREAS, evidence-based treatment modalities, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for
13 opioid use disorder and behavioral therapies, are proven to reduce morbidity and mortality
14 related to addiction, yet family medicine residents may graduate without the necessary
15 knowledge or skills to confidently provide these treatments⁴; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Substance Abuse and
18 Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) support initiatives to increase the
19 availability of addiction-trained physicians, particularly in primary care settings where the
20 impact of SUDs is most pronounced^{1,4}; now, therefore be it
21

22 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourage family
23 medicine residency programs to incorporate comprehensive addiction medicine education into
24 their training, emphasizing the importance of preparing residents to address Substance Use
25 Disorders effectively; and, be it further
26

27 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP includes addiction medicine education at conferences and other
28 educational opportunities to ensure family physicians receive necessary knowledge and skills
29 to address substance use disorders; and, be it further
30

31 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourage the development of continuing medical education (CME)
32 resources and pathways, including fellowship opportunities and the creation of a Certificate of
33 Added Qualification (CAQ) programs in addiction medicine through the American Osteopathic
34 Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) to enhance the capacity of family physicians to care for
35 patients with substance use disorders.
36

FINAL ACTION: DISSAPROVED as of April 2, 2025

A resolution is not necessary for this matter. The Resident Council is well-positioned to collaborate with existing committees that provide guidance on programming for the Annual Convention. Additionally, the ACOFP does not have the authority to determine or influence ACGME training standards. For physicians pursuing a focus in addiction medicine, established certification pathways already exist.

References:

1. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration. Available at: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/technical-assistance/clinical-quality-improvement/behavioral-health-primary-care-integration>
2. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). (2024). Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Family Medicine. Available at: https://www.acgme.org/globalassets/pfassets/programrequirements/120_family_medicine_2024.pdf
3. American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM). Additional Certifications in Addiction Medicine. Available at: <https://www.theabfm.org/research/research-library/practice-patterns-of-family-physicians-with-and-without-addiction-medicine-board-certification/>
4. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2019). Medication-Assisted Treatment: A Proven Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. Available at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment>
5. American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM). Addiction Medicine Curriculum. Available at: <https://www.acaam.org/national-addiction-medicine-didactic-curriculum>