

European Board PRM News

Site Visits – European Board recognition as a training unit in Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine

Quality of training is one of the most important factors in the domain of quality of medical care. The UEMS has been active in the field of quality improvement of specialist training for years.

The European Board (EB) of PRM has formulated guidelines and criteria for this purpose that are accepted by the representative organizations of Medical Specialties in the European Union (UEMS). The need for harmonisation and encouragement in the field of training has showed some variation of the organization of EB at the beginning. It is essential then to assess, improve and control specialist training.

As the UEMS Charter on International Visitation mentioned it in 1997 the EB of the Specialised Sections has the purpose of guaranteeing the highest standards of care in the specialty concerned in the EU member states, by ensuring that the training of specialists is raised to an adequate level. The site visits lead to a quality mark issued by the EB. This serves the harmonisation of the level of training in the EU.

In addition this gives opportunities for trainees to learn more about the EB PRM. Trainees and EB-non-certified specialists meet representatives of the EB during the site visits and they have the possibility to discuss and learn about the goals and means of the EB PRM.

How to do if your unit wish to become site-visited by the EB PRM?

A service wishing to be recognised as a training centre by the European Board of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine requests a site visit by writing to the General Secretary (Prof. Alain Delarque, e-mail: adelarque@ap-hm.fr) and to the Chairman of the sub-commission on site visits (Prof Alex Chantraine, e-mail: alex.chantraine@bluewin.ch). There is a form to fill in. It can be found on the web site of UEMS EB PRM (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/pmrboard/physic>) and can be sent by e-mail.

When the time has become agreed upon, two representatives nominated by the Educational Committee of the EB PRM (usually one member of the sub-committee on site visits and one EB recognised trainer from the country of the host unit) come to evaluate the training programme of the centre.

They will meet the trainers who describe the centre and explain its organization as well as the training they offer the trainees. The facilities of the centre are inspected. Some of the administrators and e.g. chief PT and/or Chief OT are seen. All trainees are seen and interviewed.

Then the two inspectors again see the trainers to present the conclusions and to discuss the recommendations to be reported to the Executive Committee of the EB PRM who takes the decisions on accreditation.

Accreditation is often given for 5 years. If there are some problems to be solved, and recommendations are presented, accreditation is given only for 2 years, a time during which the requirements can be fulfilled. If the recommended changes after the two years have not become satisfactorily carried through, the unit will have to reapply for a new site visit. A new application is also needed when an already accredited unit has got a new chief. It is essential that two of the trainers of a unit must be EB-certified specialists in PRM, the chief and another trainer. After the normal duration of the accreditation of 5 years the unit applies again for further accreditation.

Educational Committee EB PRM