

Hospice and palliative care medicine has been approved as a new subspecialty by the board of directors of the [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education \(ACGME\)](#). The council also plans to appoint an advisory committee to develop medical residency program requirements for the new subspecialty.

Hospice and palliative care will be a medical subspecialty in eleven medical practice areas, from internal medicine to otolaryngology.

The ACGME is an independent accrediting organization whose members include the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

It is hoped that the first certification examination in the subspecialty of hospice and palliative medicine will be offered to the American Board of Medical Specialties in 2008, according to the [American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine \(ABHPM\)](#), which has been working to achieve recognition of the subspecialty since 1996. "The ABHPM has advocated strongly for the view that palliative care is best viewed from the perspective of generalist-level and specialist-level practices," comments ABHPM chairman Russell K. Portenoy, MD, of Beth Israel Medical Center, New York City.

"The need for this distinction, which parallels the approach to medical practice in other specialties, is apparent to anyone who understands the high level of knowledge and skill required to address the multiple domains of human experience within the purview of palliative care, particularly in the setting of advanced illness." For more information visit www.acgme.org or www.abhpm.org.

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