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Pilot Advances ECFMG's Efforts to Stimulate International Accreditation

In September 2010, ECFMG announced that, effective in 2023, physicians applying for ECFMG Certification will be required to graduate from a medical school that has been appropriately accredited. To satisfy this requirement, the physician's medical school must be accredited through a formal process that uses criteria comparable to those established by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or other globally accepted criteria, such as those put forth by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). ECFMG believes that this additional requirement for ECFMG Certification will stimulate the development of a meaningful, universally accepted system of accreditation for undergraduate medical education outside the United States and Canada.

In 2011, representatives from [WFME](#) and the [Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research \(FAIMER[®]\)](#) made strides toward this goal by collaborating to develop a process for evaluating and recognizing accrediting agencies. The two organizations developed a pilot program through which WFME evaluated the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), which develops standards for and accredits programs of medicine and other health professions in the Caribbean community. The WFME-FAIMER team evaluated CAAM-HP's application for recognition; observed the agency as it conducted a site visit of a medical school seeking accreditation and a site visit to the medical school's clinical training sites in the United States; monitored an accreditation decision meeting; and wrote a report detailing the agency's compliance with the recognition criteria.

Later this year, the WFME Executive Committee is expected to review the recognition criteria and process established by the WFME-FAIMER team, and the WFME Recognition Committee will make a decision on CAAM-HP's recognition. The pilot is expected to conclude with a comprehensive review and finalization of the recognition process.

Graduates of medical schools accredited by a body that is recognized through this process would meet ECFMG's new accreditation requirement for ECFMG Certification.