

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: January 22, 2013
 ATTENTION: Medical Board of California
 SUBJECT: Recognition of Medical University of Warsaw– English
 Language Program
 STAFF CONTACT: Curtis J. Worden, Chief of Licensing

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Medical Board of California (Board) should recognize the medical education from the Medical University of Warsaw’s English Language Program as substantially compliant with requirements of sections 2089 and 2089.5 of the Business and Professions Code and section 1314.1 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. This recognition would be retroactive to the start of the English Language Program in 1993, and recognition would be granted without a site visit of the medical school.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

The Board already recognizes the Medical University of Warsaw (MUW) pursuant to Section 1314.1 (a)(1) of Title 16, California Code of Regulations. MUW is a well established medical school in Poland with the primary mission of training citizens of Poland to practice medicine in Poland. MUW has an overall 200 hundred year history of providing medical school education. In 1949 after World War II the medical school was reopened as the Medical Academy of Warsaw and is now known as the Medical University of Warsaw. In 1993, MUW started an English language program at its Second Faculty of Medicine. It is designed for students that speak English with the goal of these graduates practicing medicine in European countries. MUW then added students from the U.S., Canada and students from other countries who are fluent in English. MUW’s English language program meets the criteria for the Board’s review pursuant to Section 1314.1 (a)(2) of Title 16, California Code of Regulations.

In April 2010, MUW officials submitted a Self Assessment Report to commence the Board’s review process of their medical school. After staff’s initial review of the Self-Assessment Report, the Board requested Licensing Medical Consultant Joseph Silva, M.D., M.S.C.P., review the school’s application. Staff and Dr. Silva requested additional information from MUW, and the medical school officials provided the requested information. The additional information was then reviewed by Dr. Silva.

Staff requests that Board members review Dr. Silva’s report and determine whether to recognize the medical education provided to students by MUW’s English language program. Dr. Silva recommends that recognition be granted, that it be retroactive, and that no site visit be required.

Alternatively, if the Board requires further information regarding the school's educational resources before a decision is reached; staff will request MUW officials to submit the information for review during a future meeting. If the Board determines site inspections are necessary prior to making a determination, staff will prepare the necessary documents.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

In accordance with Business and Professions Code Section 2089.5, the costs of conducting a site inspection are borne by the medical school applying for the Board's recognition. These costs include all team members' air and ground travel costs within the guidelines allowed by the State, the consultant's daily per diem expense, and the consultant's travel expenses to and from any Board meetings where the team presents its report. Subsection (e) of Section 1314.1 of the regulations requires the medical school to reimburse the Board for the team's estimated travel expenses in advance of the site visit.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please telephone me at (916) 263-2382.

September 17, 2012

To: Curt Worden
Chief of Licensing
Medical Board of California

From: Joseph Silva, MD, MACP
Medical Consultant

Subject: Evaluation of Medical University of Warsaw (MUW) English Language Program/ Self-Assessment Report; Application for Recognition in California

BACKGROUND

The Medical Board of California (Board) requested a review of the materials provided by Medical University of Warsaw's English Language Program (MUW-ELP), located in Warsaw, Poland, to determine if MUW-ELP complies with Business and Professions Code Sections 2089 and 2089.5 and Title 16, Section 1314.1 of the California Code of Regulations. The following is my critique of the information I was provided including:

1. MUW-ELP Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and supporting documentation.
2. MUW-ELP 's responses to the Board's requests for additional information.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

MUW-ELP initially indicated that it did not have any official system or rules that would allow it to track the progress of its English program graduates in obtaining residency training outside Poland, but noted that it was in the process of preparing a specific regulation that will allow it to collect this data in the future. Beginning in the 2012/2013 academic year, MUW-ELP will introduce a survey for its English program graduates to evaluate their vocational preparation and career paths, similar to the questionnaire used to gather information from graduates of the Polish language program since 2010. MUW-ELP provided a draft of the survey.

The Board requested a description of any other evaluative tools that are used to determine if the school's missions are being achieved. MUW-ELP provided information on their Student Survey tool, peer review visits, student progress evaluation and review, and other quality and internal audits that the school employs. In addition, MUW-ELP provided documentation of the last two Accreditation Reviews of MUW by Polish authorities: Polish Accreditation Committee (conducted on 3/22-23/2011) and Accreditation Committee for Polish University Medical Schools (conducted on 3/20-21/2012). In table 5 of the Polish Accreditation Committee's 2011 review (page 31 of "IX Summary of Compliance"), nine areas were rated as "full compliance" (structure of Graduate qualification, study programs and curricula, academic staff, learning outcomes, scientific research, student affairs, legal

culture of the University and the unit, public relations). One area was substantial (teaching facilities) and one area was partial (internal Quality Assurance Program). The substantial rating could be improved if MUW develops a University teaching hospital. The Accreditation Committee for Polish University Medical School's 2012 review further amplifies teaching successes and failures. It is interesting to note on page 38 of this report that 49 students failed examines in the prior year and 493 passed.

MUW-ELP indicated that they are revising their QM system based on "Standards and Quality Guidelines for Quality Assurance in European Higher Education Area."

Warsaw teaching hospitals are all certified via ISO 9001 standards.

MUW-ELP noted that the achievement of their mission and objectives is confirmed by MUW's high position in Polish higher education institution rankings (2nd position in the field of medical studies with the highest maximum score in the area of employers' preferences) in a magazine similar to US News and Report.

In the initial SAR, MUW-ELP indicated that rules were being prepared to allow MUW-ELP to obtain information about USMLE results from their graduates. As of June 2011, MUW-ELP now has information on the USMLE results of its students and graduates for all three steps.

Conclusion: Overall MUW has satisfactorily addressed the Board's questions with regard to its missions and objectives and its tracking of student performance.

FACILITIES

In response to the Board's request for the names of the hospitals and their locations where students in the English language program have been approved to complete clinical rotations outside of Poland, MUW listed over 70 hospitals used for clinical training. The Board asked for additional information to assure that each site complies with B&P Section 2089.5, including affiliation agreements between MUW and each clinical training location. The 70 hospitals listed do not have formal training affiliates with MUW. These are used only for limited rotations at hospitals outside the MUW sphere. These rotations are screened for credit once a student completes a rotation. Quality and grade determined is made by an administrative officer at MUW. Each student's curriculum is considered individually and credit given only after a review. MUW points out that in academic year 2008/2009 – there were no such clinical rotations. Subsequent rotations have been primarily at the Loyola Health System which is recognized as a valid medical school in the US which provides first rate training.

Conclusion: Explanations offered for Facilities leads me to conclude they comply with our standards for training at clinical facilities.

CLINICAL OVERSIGHT

Subsection (b)(4) of Section 1314.1 now requires the institution to have a system of central oversight to assure that the faculty define the types of patients and clinical conditions that the students must encounter, the appropriate clinical setting for the educational experiences, and the expected level of student responsibility. Further, the system shall ensure that the faculty monitor and verify student experience and modify it as necessary to ensure that the objectives of the clinical education program will be met.

MUW indicated that the medical faculty and staff are responsible for the preparation of students to their contact with patients. The Board requested clarification of how student experiences are verified. In response, MUW stated that each Unit of Warsaw verifies student's experiences and, if needed, modifies student's progress through a variety of ways: by exams conducted during and at the end of each course to evaluate the knowledge, skills and competences of students; via Pedagogical Committee meetings held at least twice a year to review assessment criteria and rules, student results, grades, absenteeism, completions rates, etc.; and by other QM bodies (Program Board, Faculty Council, Office for Didactics and Learning Outcomes, etc).

Conclusion: Data submitted by MUW pertinent to this section is that faculty and staff have duties commensurate with insuring compliance with this requirement.

ADMISSION AND PROMOTION STANDARDS

Subsection (b)(8) of Section 1314.1 now requires the institution to document that its admitted students generally meet entrance requirements equivalent to those utilized by U.S. and Canadian medical schools, including an appropriate background check of all applicants admitted to the institution. MUW has indicated that in Poland, institutions of higher education are not permitted by law to inquire prospective students about their criminal convictions or history of disciplinary problems. It is my understanding that the Medical University of Silesia conducts background checks and may be able to provide information on this practice. MUW appears willing to confirm background checks but may need guidance.

EVALUATION OF PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Subsection (b)(14) of Section 1314.1 now requires that an institution collect and use a variety of outcome data to demonstrate the extent to which it is meeting its educational program objectives. The Board requested information on what outcome data the school collects to assess whether students in the English program are meeting the school's educational program objectives and how the school uses that outcome data. As previously noted, MUW undergoes regular evaluation of their instruction, faculty, instructional methods, facilities, etc. by Polish authorities. MUW

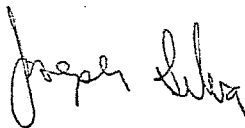
provided the Board with both the Polish Accreditation Committee Report (March 2011) and the Accreditation Committee for Polish University Medical Schools Report (March 2012).

Additional responses from MUW indicate they are currently analyzing an appropriate “materials base for providing instruction” (see Attachments 5 and 6). These current evaluations place them on compliance with CA law as to training. The medical school also highlights that they are developing new formal procedures for curriculum design, review, evaluation and improvement. This is a trend occurring world-wide in many medical schools.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I believe MUW is in compliance with our new and existing regulations and questions framed. The criminal check background is the only area not imposed. I recommend action for approval by the California Medical Board with a discussion of criminal checks (which could be left to subsequent hiring agencies, primarily hospitals in the US or other countries).

Sincerely,



Joseph Silva, MD, MACP

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Medical Board of California – Licensing Consultant