

## RECOMMENDED EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PRACTICE OF ELECTRODIAGNOSTIC MEDICINE

### Position Statement

Clinical electrodiagnostic medicine is a medical consultation in the specialized area of neuromuscular diseases using electrophysiologic techniques. The electrodiagnostic medicine (EDX) consultant, therefore, shall be a physician who has special training in the diagnosis and treatment of neurological and neuromuscular diseases and is also an expert in the application of particular neurophysiologic techniques to the study of these disorders. This type of training is generally included in the residency or fellowship programs of physicians who specialize in physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatrists) or neurology (neurologists). Training shall include the basic sciences pertinent to the understanding of these diseases, as well as additional special knowledge of electrophysiologic techniques. The recommended educational requirements for an EDX consultant are as follows:

1. A neurology or physical medicine and rehabilitation residency accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
2. A period of preceptorship in electrodiagnostic medicine that is coordinated with presentation of didactic material must be satisfactorily completed under direct supervision of an experienced EDX consultant. This period of preceptorship may be taken during and/or after an approved residency training program and must be at least 6 months full-time or equivalent. The first 3 months shall be rigidly structured with regard to supervision. During the preceptorship, at least 200 complete EDX evaluations must be performed on separate occasions; these studies must be documented and interpreted. The individual must have experience with neuromuscular disorders in adults and children.

Any postresidency course of study in electrodiagnostic medicine must be in a laboratory where there is a neurology or physical medicine and rehabilitation program accredited by the ACGME or the RCPSC. The EDX training should include adequate educational experience in:

- a. Anatomy.
- b. Pathology of muscle and nerve.
- c. Neuromuscular physiology.
- d. Electrophysiology including instrumentation, quantification, and statistical analysis.

- e. Clinical aspects of diseases of the neurological, neuromuscular, and/or muscular systems as they pertain to the electrodiagnostic evaluation.

Since a variety of clinical experiences is needed in order to become a competent EDX consultant, institutions may vary in their ability to provide training in all areas. Arrangements with other institutions providing the appropriate training may be necessary, although the primary training institution (laboratory) and the chief EDX consultant shall assume overall responsibility for adequate training. An American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM [formerly AAEM]) document, *Educational Guidelines for Electrodiagnostic Training Programs*, is available to assist directors in reviewing their programs and can be obtained from the AANEM Executive Office.

3. Competency in electrodiagnostic medicine can only be achieved with at least 1 year of experience following training during which they must perform an additional 200 complete EDX evaluations on separate occasions. This period of independent experience shall begin after satisfactory completion of both the approved residency training program and the 6 month preceptorship. The year of independent experience may be part of a post residency program when the individual has been given primary responsibility for the performance and interpretation of the examination and preparation of the reports.

Excerpted from "Chapter 1: The Scope of Electrodiagnostic Medicine" in *Guidelines in Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Muscle Nerve 22: Supplement 8 S6-S7, 1999.*