

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION: WFME STANDARDS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND CRITERIA FOR REGULATORY AGENCIES

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Distance Learning

**IMPROVING
QUALITY**

**Accreditation
agency**

Standards

**Regulatory
processes**

**Medical
school**

**Compliance with
standards**

**Curriculum
management**

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Begin with standards

Standards

**Accreditation
agency**

**Regulatory
processes**

**IMPROVING
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**Medical
school**

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STANDARDS

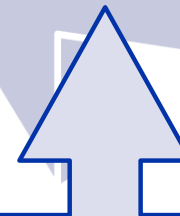
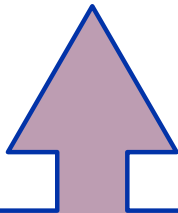
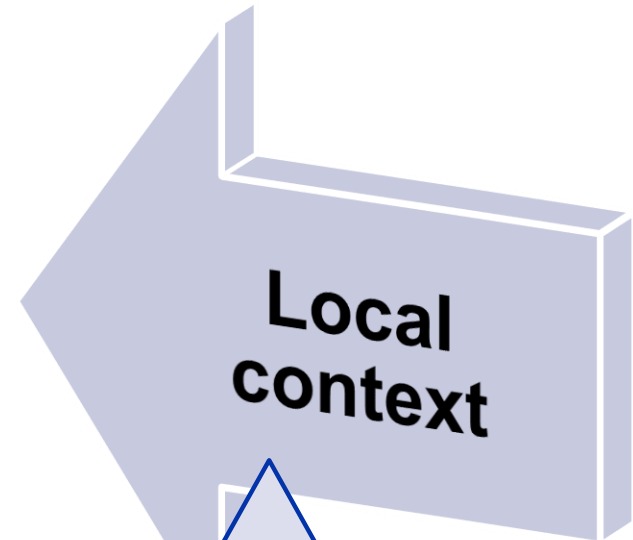
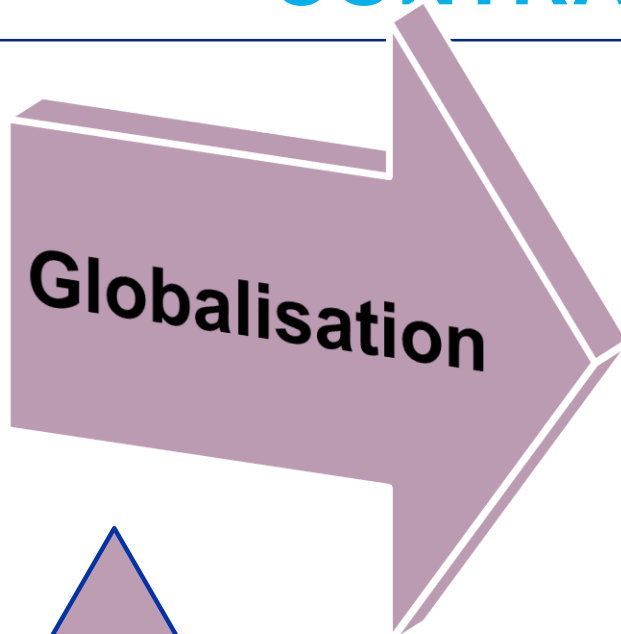
The basis of regulation.

A generally agreed norm or requirement.

Describes what is regarded as good practice.



BUT WE LIVE IN AN ERA OF CONTRADICTIONS....



- ✳ Benchmarking
- ✳ Medical migration
- ✳ International recognition
- ✳ ? West is best

- ✳ Healthcare needs
- ✳ Employment conditions
- ✳ Regulation
- ✳ Learning and professional cultures

DIFFERENT STANDARD SETTERS SET DIFFERENT STANDARDS

Because contexts are different....



But they often want their
standards to be world-
class....

A STANDARD IS....

.....an agreed way of doing something

No robust evidence base in education
standards must be agreed on the basis of local
contextual analysis

We must think of standards in terms of:

- ★ Our purpose in writing them
- ★ Our intentions about how they will be used
- ★ The degree to which we wish to control or liberate.

This will make you world-class

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TO HELP YOU DO THAT....

Medical schools and regulators can use the WFME standards as a guiding framework.



You are here: [Home](#) / [News](#) / WFME issues a clarification about use of standards in design of medical curricula

WFME issues a clarification about use of standards in design of medical curricula

November 28, 2017

In response to recent enquiries about the [WFME standards](#), we have decided that it would be helpful to address a common misconception about the use of the standards in a particular context. It has been understood by some, that the standards are prescriptive, and a medical curriculum should be developed in exact accordance with them, regardless of the local needs and requirements. We would like to clarify that this is untrue.

WFME STANDARDS

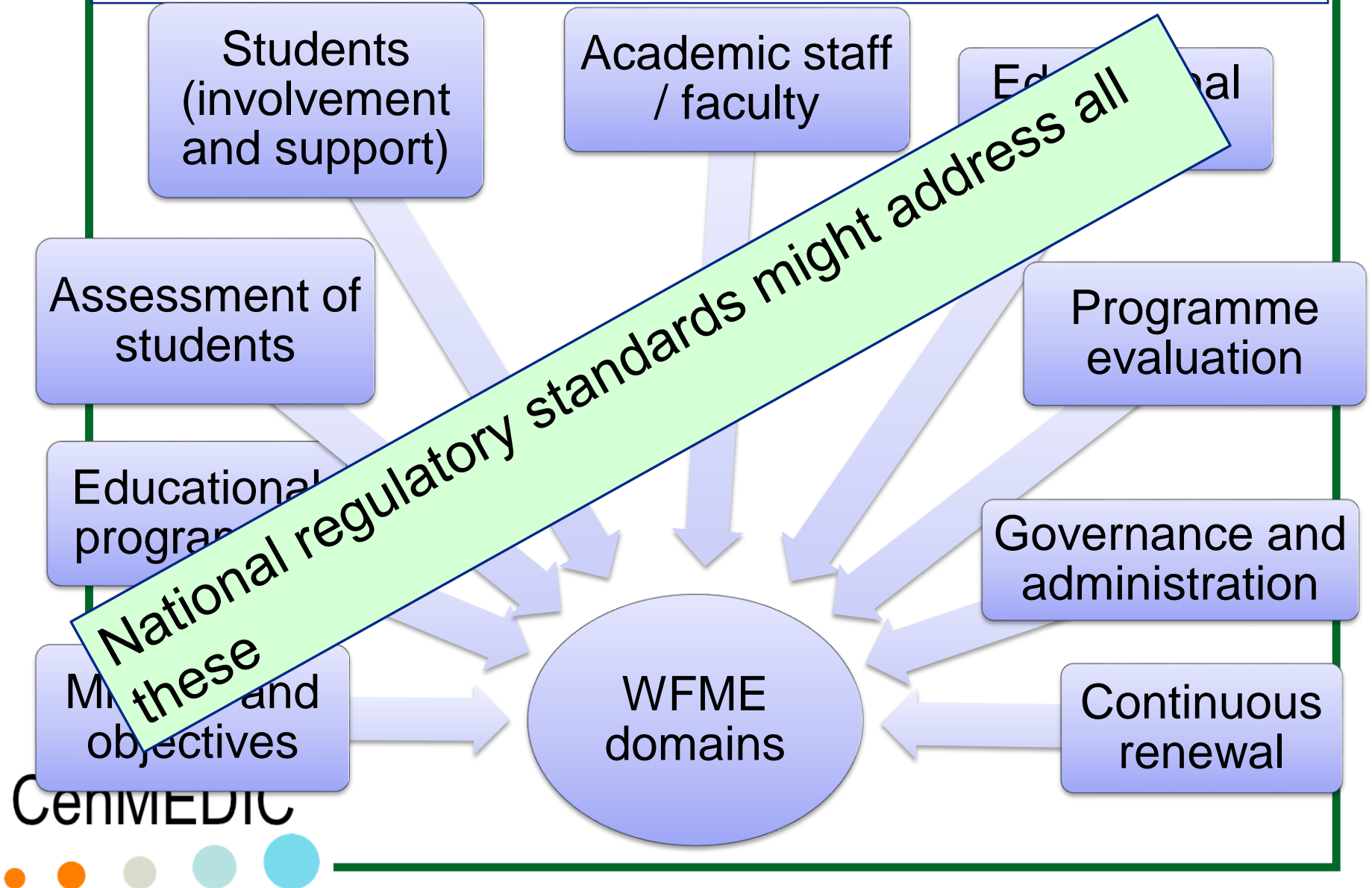
Do not specify any particular practice, provision or outcome

Are a guide to decision-making for local interpretation / versioning

WFME standards recognise diversity and difference and the need for local and contextual relevance.

They expect everyone to develop their own standards for their own context

WFME DOMAINS



WFME STANDARDS ARE...

A professionally agreed statement

A framework against which:

- National regulators can set their own locally appropriate standards for the schools they regulate
- Medical schools can judge their own performance



THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF STANDARD:

Input standards

- Resources

Process standards

- Activities

Output standards

What the system produces

Outcome standards

- How is a trainee likely to perform in practice?

Regulators should decide what balance of these is appropriate to their own context.

AN EFFECTIVE SET OF STANDARDS

Sets baseline and encourages improvement
e.g. WFME basic and quality development levels

Covers the entire relevant realm

Does not address trivial areas e.g. 'kettle counting'

Manageable in number

Avoids bureaucratic response

Can be addressed in sections or entirety

Might include optimal standards for excellence



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF STANDARDS IN QUALITY PROCESSES?



PURPOSES OF STANDARDS IN REGULATION

form the basis of
the accrediting
process

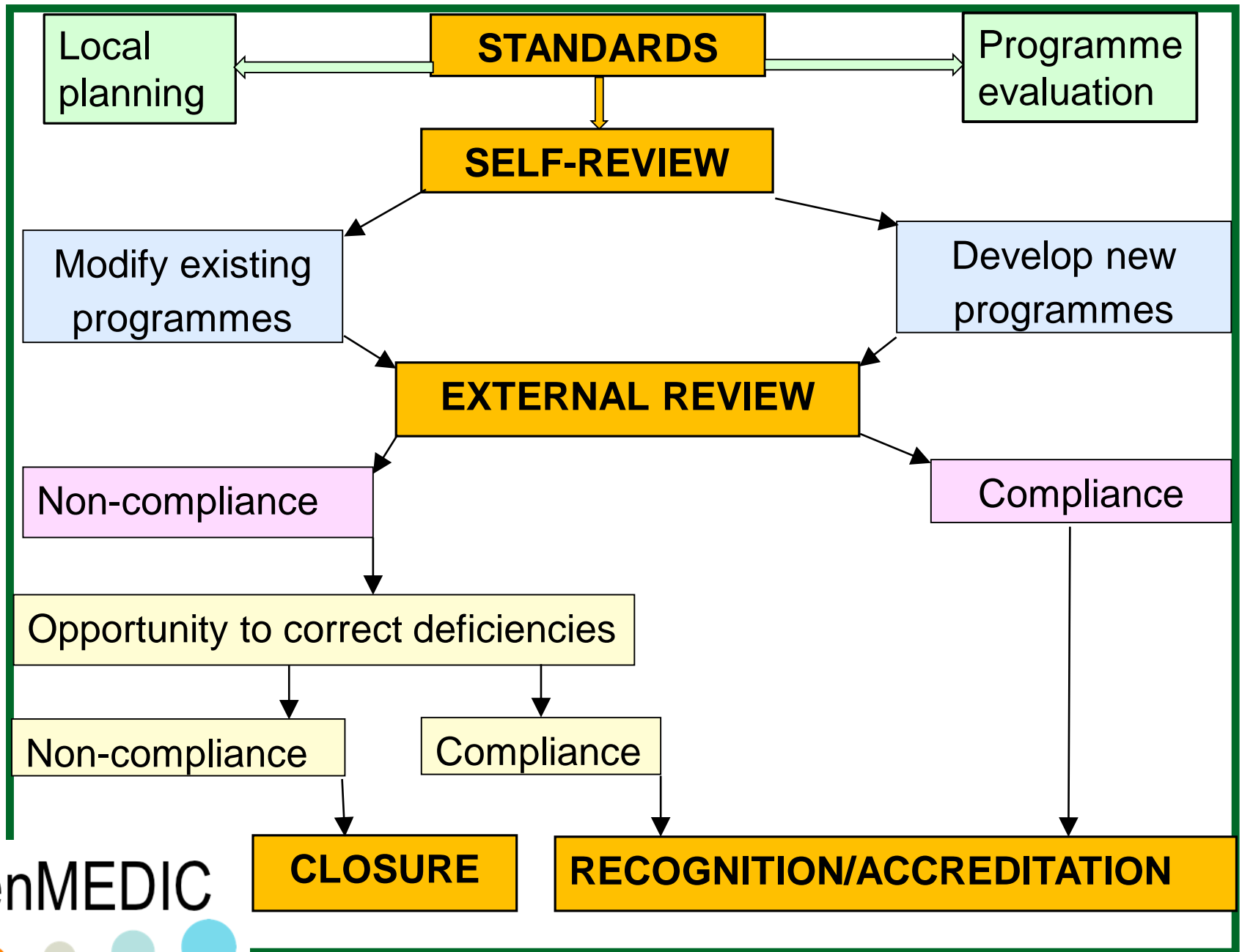
be used for
the prior self-
review

inform any
external
evaluation

be the basis for
recommendations

structure the final
decision on
accreditation





IS QUALITY GUARANTEED?

Regulation and accreditation are essential in the current era, but...

Quality in practice is contextual

The local context can only be expressed in the curriculum

Regulators should ensure that their standards encourage curricula that are appropriate to the local context.

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THE REGULATORY STANDARDS CAN ENSURE THAT THE CURRICULUM:

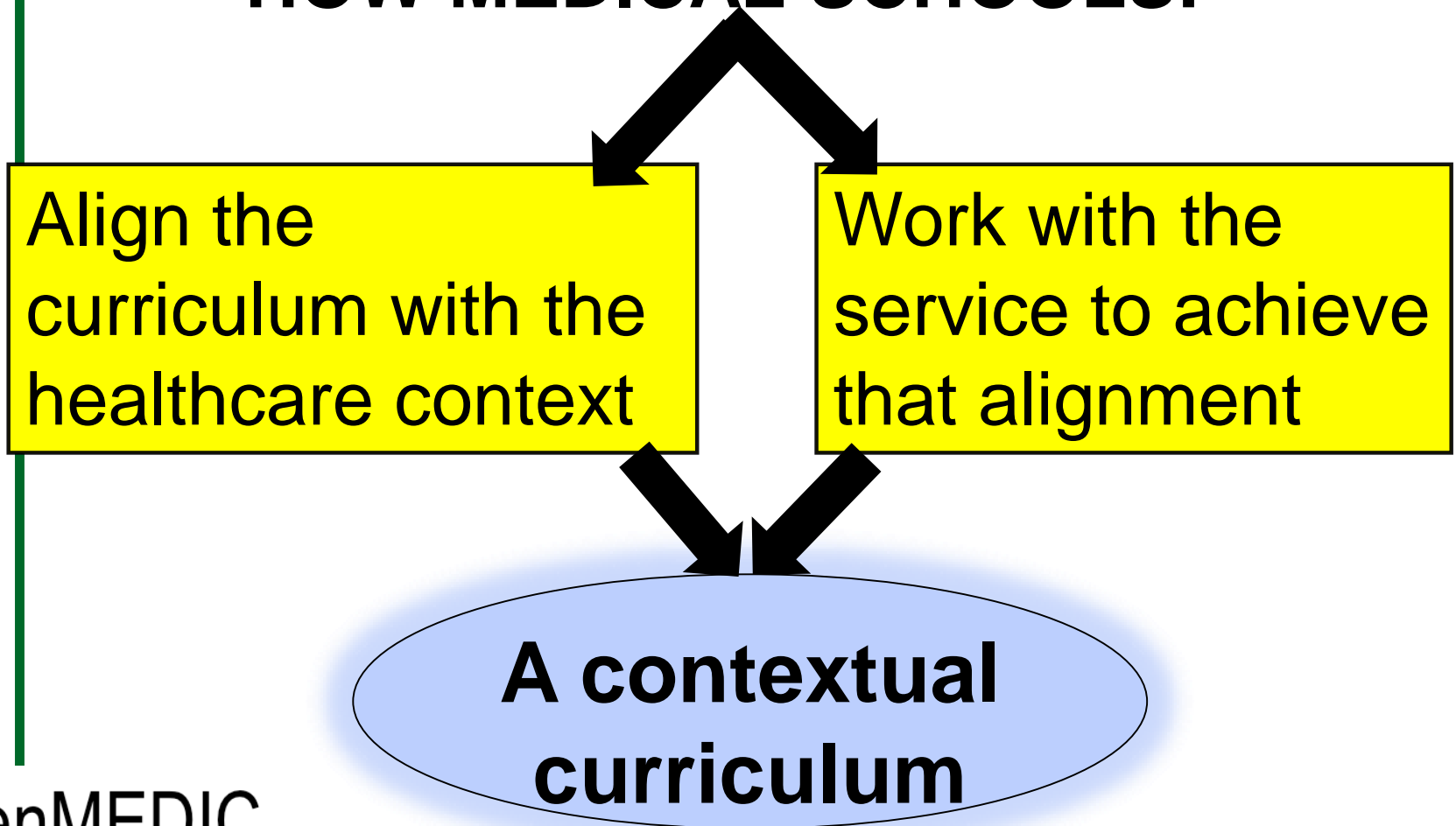
Reflects the stated vision and mission of the organisation

Takes into account the local and national context

Is continually renewed

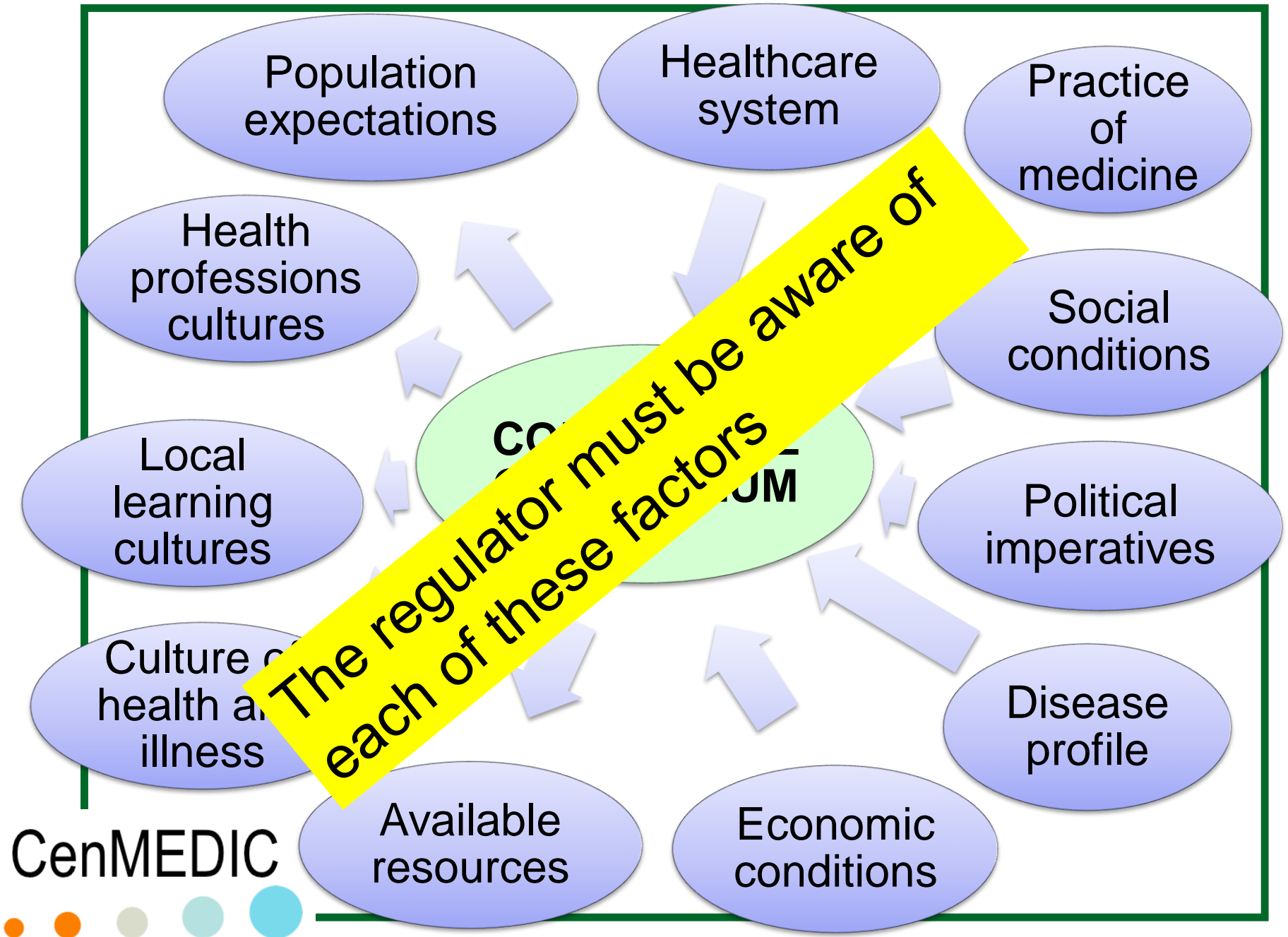
STANDARDS SHOULD ADDRESS

HOW MEDICAL SCHOOLS:



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Grant, Abdelrahman and Zachariah(2013) Chapter 2. *Oxford Textbook of Medical Education*. Ed: K Walsh. Oxford University Press, Oxford.





Remember!

No curriculum design is more effective than any other

The curriculum must be appropriate to the context

Curriculum management is a key to success

Contextualising knowledge and skill is important

Regulators should address curriculum management

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Meet the standards set by the regulator

A curriculum that suits the health service and educational culture

Adequate human or physical resources

**CURRICULUM
MANAGEMENT**

Ensure that quality support measures are in place:

Curriculum monitoring and evaluation

Support for teachers and students

Well managed human and physical resources

Teachers at the centre of educational development

CenM Feedback from all interested groups

Well managed change



ROLE OF THE REGULATORY AGENCY IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Sets appropriate standards

Seeks and verifies accurate, updated information

Imposes requirements, restrictions and conditions

Secures compliance

Contextual, supportive, honest, non-threatening

Allows local contextualisation

So.....WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

A review of an educational programme



**conducted by a governmental
organisation or a private entity**



accountable at a government level



**based on publicised standards and
predetermined protocols.**



HOW DO REGULATORS WORK?



THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

1. Agreeing and publicising pre-determined standards



2. Submission of self-review report by the institution



3. On-site visit of peer-review team for validation of the self-review report



4. Evaluation and outcome recommendations to the decision-making body



5. Decision on accreditation



6. Public announcement of decisions



HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT THE REGULATOR IS WORKING WELL?

WFME criteria for
regulatory bodies

WFME recognition
process



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WFME SETS OUT CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION AGENCIES



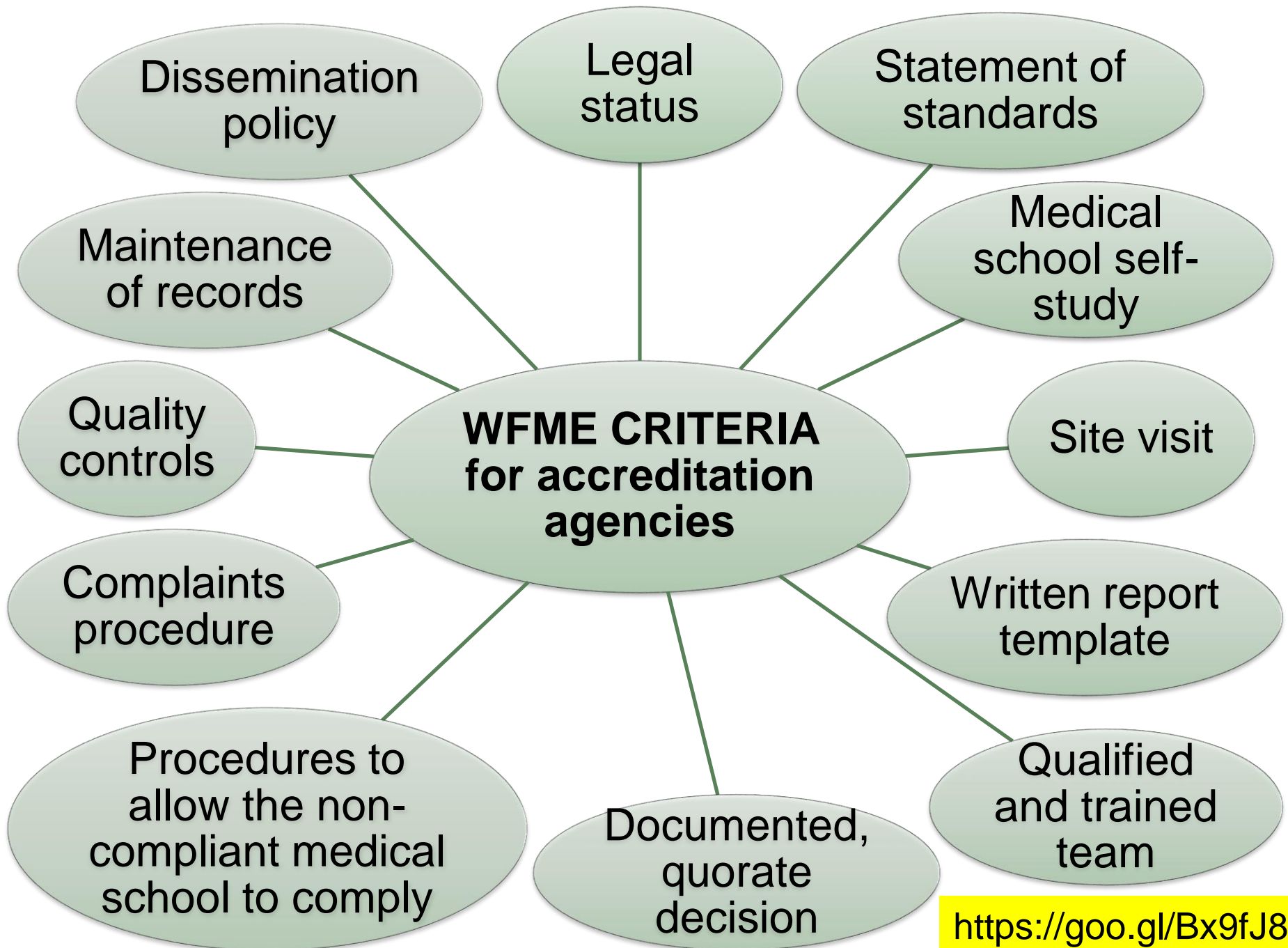
THE WFME PROGRAMME FOR RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

Recognition criteria for agencies accrediting medical
schools

August 2012

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OUTLINE OF THE PROCESS

Determine eligibility to apply

Complete application

Site visit dates agreed

WFME appoints Recognition Team

Team observes agency working

Draft recognition report

Recognition status given

Factual errors reviewed by agency

Process evaluation

Status reports submitted



INFORMATION HERE:

<http://wfme.org/accreditation/recognition-programme/>

The screenshot shows the WFME website's 'Recognition Programme' page. A large yellow banner with a blue border is placed diagonally across the center, containing the text 'How does WFME recognition work?'. The website header includes a navigation menu with links to Home, About, Accreditation, Standards, World Directory, Publications, and Further projects. The main content area is titled 'WFME Recognition Programme' and describes the programme's purpose: to deliver an independent, transparent accreditation system for medical schools worldwide. It mentions that WFME evaluates the compliance of accrediting agencies with pre-defined standards. A list of concerns is provided, including the existence of an accreditation system that does not guarantee trustworthy decisions, the rapid growth of medical schools creating a market for accreditation services of little value, and the fact that accreditation is not a legal requirement. The text also states that WFME can only accredit individual medical schools through the Recognition Programme, and that accreditation status confers the understanding that the quality of medical education is at an appropriate and rigorous standard. A sidebar on the right lists 'Accrediting Agencies with Recognition Status' and includes links to the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions (CAAM-HP), The Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (TEPDAD), the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (in cooperation with LCME), the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), and the Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation (KIMEE).

You are here: [Home](#) / [Accreditation](#) / WFME Recognition Programme

WFME Recognition Programme

The Recognition Programme delivers an independent, transparent accreditation system, ensuring that accreditation of medical schools worldwide is at an international standard. WFME evaluates compliance of accrediting agencies with pre-defined standards.

The Recognition Programme was established to address the following concerns:

- The existence of an accreditation system does not guarantee that the system will result in trustworthy decisions on the quality of medical education; this requires the accreditation system itself to operate in a reliable and referenced way.
- The rapid growth of medical schools worldwide has created a growing market for accreditation services, and many firms and individual consultants now offer an accreditation service of little value.

WFME can only accredit individual medical schools, however through the Recognition Programme, WFME can ensure the legal standing, accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring, and decision-making processes of the accreditation agency for programmes of basic medical education schools or programmes. WFME Recognition Status confers the understanding that the quality of medical education in its accredited schools is at an appropriate and rigorous standard.

Through the Recognition Programme, WFME aims to ensure patient safety through competent practising doctors; and it aims to protect medical students from studying in poor quality schools.

Benefits of WFME Recognition Status

Accrediting Agencies with Recognition Status

- [Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions \(CAAM-HP\)](#) (Countries of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM) – until **May 2022**
- [The Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs \(TEPDAD\)](#) (Tıp Eğitimi Değerlendirme ve Akreditasyon Derneği) (Turkey) – until **July 2023**
- [Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools \(in cooperation with LCME\) \(Canada\)](#) – until **April 2024**
- [Liaison Committee on Medical Education \(LCME\)](#) (United States of America) – until **April 2024**
- [Korean Institute of Medical Education and Evaluation \(KIMEE\)](#) (Republic of Korea) – until **September 2026**

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TIMELINE FOR RECOGNITION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

8-12 months
before the
assessment



2-8 months
before the
assessment



2-5 months
before the
assessment

Preliminary
discussions
Initial review



Recognition
submission



Team
members
appointed

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TIMELINE FOR RECOGNITION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

1-2 months
before the
assessment



1-2 months
before the
assessment



The
assessment

Submit
completed
application
forms



Finalise
practical
arrangements



Site visit

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TIMELINE FOR RECOGNITION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

0-2 months
after the
assessment



2-6 months
after the
assessment



Ongoing...

Recognition
report
drafted



Recognition
decision



Status
reports
every 2
years

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WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS?



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PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS

INITIAL REVIEW:

8-12 months before the assessment

- ★ Notify WFME of intention to apply
- ★ Indicate preferred timing, considering observation of site visit and accreditation decision
- ★ WFME reviews eligibility (government agency, or agency recognised by government or professional body)



RECOGNITION SUBMISSION: 2-8 months before the assessment

- ★ Prepare the submission using WFME templates
- ★ = self-review against WFME recognition criteria
- ★ Includes schedule
- ★ WFME will clarify any issues

<http://wfme.org/accreditation/recognition-criteria/>

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⌂

2. DOCUMENTATION

Instructions

The questions listed below are based on the criteria deemed necessary by WFME for recognition of an accrediting agency charged with assessing the quality of medical education programs. Please fully answer all questions, including all parts of questions, and label and attach any necessary documentation.

⌂

Part I: Background

A. Scope of Authority

Question:

- In which year did the accrediting agency begin carrying out accreditation activities?
- Describe the number and type of educational programs accredited by the accrediting agency.
- Describe the geographic region in which the accrediting agency provides accreditation activities. (Please list countries / territories.)
- Describe the relationship(s) between the accrediting agency and any related professional or governmental organizations.
- Please provide the name and contact information for the government agency or agencies (i.e., Ministry of Health and/or Ministry of Education) that authorizes/recognizes the accrediting agency.

Response:

⌂

TEAM MEMBERS APPOINTED: 2-5 months before the assessment

- ★ Three qualified members
- ★ No conflict of interest
- ★ Agency has opportunity to comment



Prof Hans Sjöström

[Read more](#)



Dr Syed Moin Ali

[Read more](#)



Dr José Ángel Córdova Villalobos

[Read more](#)



Dr Claire de Burbure

[Read more](#)



Dr Toshimasa Yoshioka

[Read more](#)



Theanne Walters

[Read more](#)



Dr Sekelani Banda

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Prof P T Jayawickramarajah

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Dr Angel Centeno

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Prof Sam Leinster

[Read more](#)



Leif Christensen

[Read more](#)

Advisers

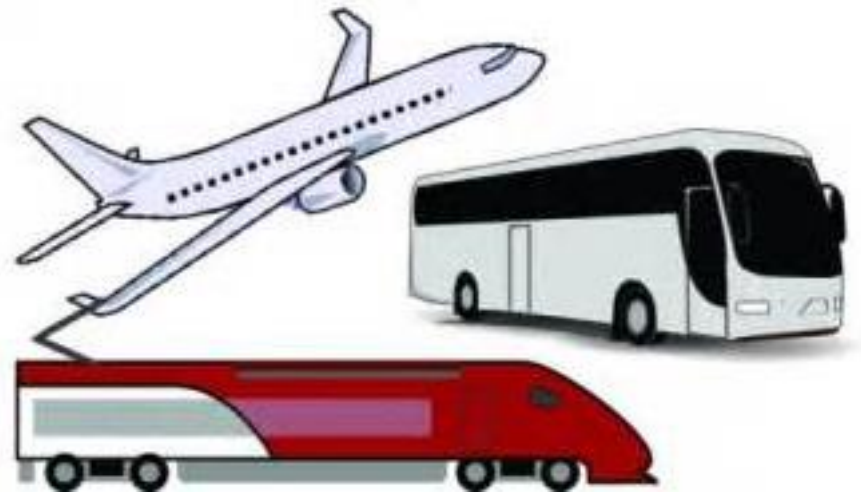
SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS: 1-2 months before the assessment

- ★ In English
- ★ Electronic, searchable PDF
- ★ With supporting evidence
- ★ WFME checks for completeness



FINALISE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS: 1-2 months before the assessment

- ★ Agency makes local travel, accommodation and meeting arrangements
- ★ Agency produces agenda and itinerary of meetings and site observations
- ★ WFME arranges international travel.



THE ASSESSMENT:

Site visit

- ★ Observe one agency site visit to a medical school and clinical sites
- ★ Observe one agency decision-making meeting



RECOGNITION REPORT DRAFTED: 0-2 months after the assessment

- ★ Full critical account of the agency's work
- ★ Quality improvement recommendations
- ★ Agency comments on factual accuracy.

REPORT



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RECOGNITION DECISION: 2-6 months after the assessment

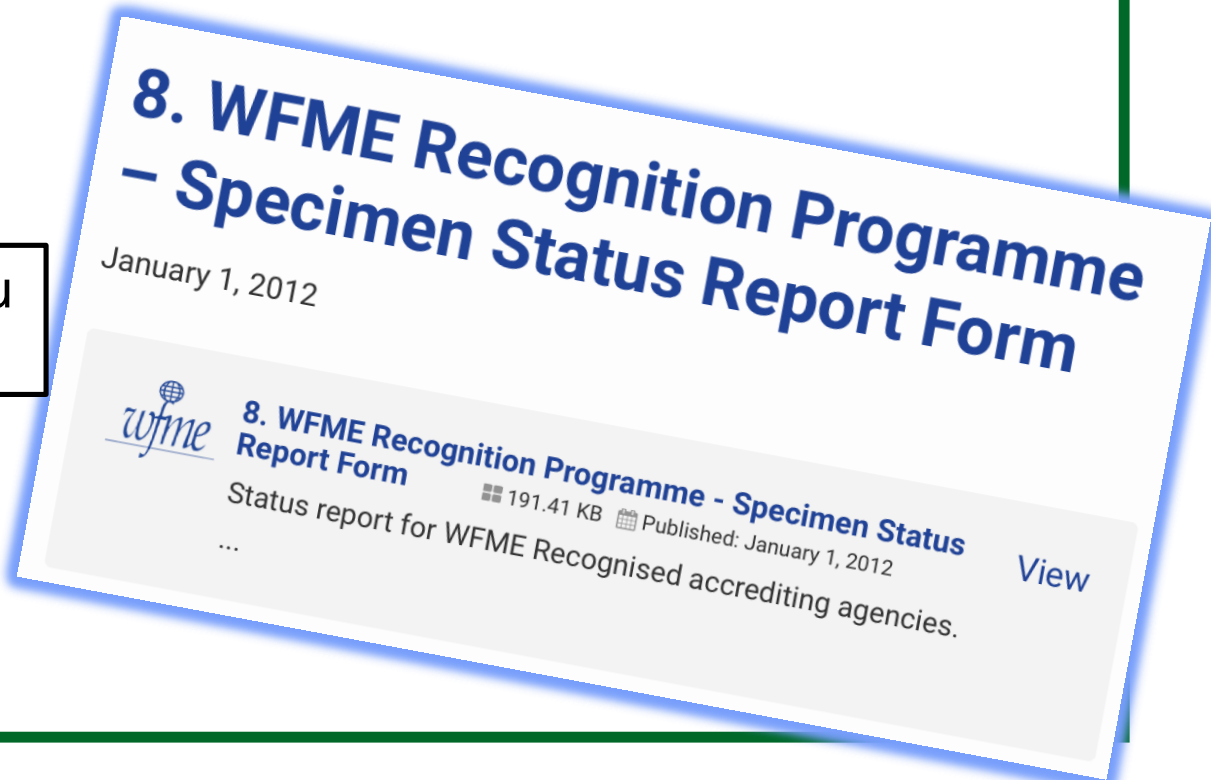
- ★ Recognition Committee makes a decision based on the report:
- ★ Recognition for 10 years outright
- ★ Recognition for 10 years with requirements and follow-up actions
- ★ Recognition pending further review
- ★ Deny or withdraw recognition.



STATUS REPORTS EVERY 2 YEARS: Ongoing

- ★ Status report every year or if agency policies or processes change

<http://wfme.org/?s=status+report>



CURRENT FEES

Subject to change and appeal

Initial review of eligibility

\$1000



Recognition submission

\$29,000



Final arrangements

\$30,000

Plus costs of local arrangements and international travel

Appeal on grounds of hardship is possible

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WFME RECOGNISED AGENCIES

- ★ CAAM-HP (Regional Caribbean)
- ★ TEPDAD (Turkey)
- ★ LCME/CACMS (United States and Canada)
- ★ ACCM (Caribbean countries)
- ★ KIMEE (South Korea)
- ★ JACME (Japan)
- ★ Two agencies pending:
 - IAAR (Kazakhstan)
 - AMC (Australia)
- ★ 9 agencies at various stages in the programme

