

# Otolaryngology Graduate Medical Education and the Institute of Medicine Report – Is There a Need for Non-Physician Educators?

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**Study Design:** descriptive report with literature review

**Objective:** The Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report in July 2014 detailing the state of graduate medical education (GME) in the United States. This report called for GME programs to provide proof that the Medicare funding that supports resident physician training is producing physicians that are “prepared to work in, to help lead, and to continually improve the health care system”. With increasing curriculum-based requirements, the ability of residency program directors to effectively maintain clinical requirements and fulfill the educational criteria is being compromised. Medical and surgical programs across the country have expressed positive growth in fulfilling educational requirements with the addition of non-physician educators. It is hypothesized that there is a tremendous lack of non-physician educators within Otolaryngology programs across the country.

**Methods:** All ACGME-accredited Otolaryngology residency program websites were researched. Available faculty profiles were reviewed for evidence of formal education training, including Masters of Education (M.Ed.) degree or fellowship in medical education. A literature review was performed.

**Results:** The websites of 107 ACGME-accredited Otolaryngology residency programs were reviewed. Of the 101 programs included, 5 (4.95%) were identified as having physician or nonphysician faculty members with advanced education degrees.

**Conclusions:** Despite changing curricula and increasing educational demands, there is an enormous lack of educational support within the structured educational activities in Otolaryngology programs. General Surgery programs have embraced nonphysician educators as vital members of the educational team. With the newest recommendations from the IOM, this may identify a void in Otolaryngology residency programs.