



TO: The Professional Practice Committee
FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech
SUBJECT: Online Learning in Professional Education

DATE: March 4, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Professional Practice Committee will discuss the development and current status of online learning in professional education programs that lead to licensure in the 50 professions. The discussion will focus on both access to professional education and public protection ensuring that online learning programs that prepare students for entry into the Title VIII professions provide the necessary education content, including the supervised clinical internships and practica that comprise part of many educational programs.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This matter will come before the Professional Practice Committee at its March meeting for discussion.

Procedural History

At its meeting in March 2010, the PPC discussed the use of online learning in professional education.

Background Information

Online higher education is increasing in both substance and quantity. Nearly every institution offers some online coursework. There are a number of institutions that offer only online instruction. However, with respect to programs that are acceptable for professional licensing, it is difficult to complete all aspects of such programs purely online. This is primarily due to the necessity of clinical or practical requirements.

Nonetheless, the use of online platforms has escalated in the non-clinical aspects of most professional programs. Additionally, we are seeing a rise in the practical online offerings as well. Practical simulations, such as an online electronics lab course, are now being offered successfully.

At this meeting of the Professional Practice Committee, we will present information about the current online programs that have been approved by the Department and information about the standards necessary for approval. Additionally, we will present an interactive online presentation that will focus upon the current use of online technology in medical education that links students attending medical school in Qatar to a New York State medical school program. Ravinder Mamtani, MD, is a professor of Public Health and the Associate Dean of Global and Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Dr. Mamtani and a panel of representatives will be available to respond to questions that may arise from this presentation.