experience (e.g., a standardized patient experience, an online or paper case) or in another clerkship (or, in Canada, clerkship rotation).

When clerkships/clerkship rotations in a given discipline are provided at multiple instructional sites, compliance with this standard (ED-2) may be linked to compliance with standard ED-8, which requires that the medical education program demonstrate comparability of educational experiences across instructional sites.

ED-3. The objectives of a medical education program must be made known to all medical students and to the faculty, residents, and others with direct responsibilities for medical student education and assessment.

B. Structure

1. General Design

ED-4. A medical education program must include at least 130 weeks of instruction.

ED-5. The curriculum of a medical education program must provide a general professional education and prepare medical students for entry into graduate medical education.

ED-5-A. A medical education program must include instructional opportunities for active learning and independent study to foster the skills necessary for lifelong learning.

*It is expected that the methods of instruction and assessment used in courses and clerkships (or, in Canada, clerkship rotations) will provide medical students with opportunities to develop lifelong learning skills. These skills include self-assessment on learning needs; the independent identification, analysis, and synthesis of relevant information; and the appraisal of the credibility of information sources. Medical students should receive explicit experiences in using these skills, and they should be assessed and receive feedback on their performance.*

ED-6. The curriculum of a medical education program must incorporate the fundamental principles of medicine and its underlying scientific concepts; allow medical students to acquire skills of critical judgment based on evidence and experience; and develop medical students' ability to use principles and skills wisely in solving problems of health and disease.

ED-7. The curriculum of a medical education program must include current concepts in the basic and clinical sciences, including therapy and technology, changes in the understanding of disease, and the effects of social needs and demands on care.

ED-8. The curriculum of a medical education program must include comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all instructional sites within a given discipline.

*Compliance with this standard requires that the educational experiences at all instructional sites be designed to achieve the same educational objectives. Course or clerkship (or, in Canada, clerkship rotation) length must be identical, unless a compelling reason exists for varying the length of the experience. The instruments and criteria used for medical student assessment, as well as the policies for the determination of grades, should be the same at all instructional sites. The faculty who teach at all instructional sites should be sufficiently knowledgeable in the subject matter to provide effective instruction and have a clear understanding of the objectives of the educational experience and the assessment methods used to determine achievement of those...*