The Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) Pathways to Excellence document has been released for graduate medical education as a foundation for preparing the physician workforce in patient safety and quality improvement, according to a report from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The CLER program is an initiative to assess the learning environment at each accredited teaching institution and includes several related activities: site visits; an evaluation committee that reviews data from the visits; and support for faculty and leadership development. The latest development of the CLER program is a new framework, the CLER Pathways to Excellence document.

The document is intended to help improve physician education in patient care environments. It incorporates findings from more than 100 site visits conducted in 2013 and input from national focus groups conducted across the country. In addition, it defines the expectations for an optimal clinical learning environment to deliver high quality and safe patient care, and lays out the pathways for improving resident and fellow physician engagement in six core areas. The document also provides tools for monitoring progress and prioritizing areas for future improvement.

"Building a cadre of young physicians who have the clinical skills to practice medicine in an increasingly complex health care system is the ACGME's top priority," Thomas J. Nasca, M.D., chief executive officer of the ACGME, said in a statement.

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