

PGME Update – Week of April 3rd

1. Accreditation

CanRAC with the Residency Accreditation Committee has changed the accreditation cycle for Western (in view of the 'pause' programs are undergoing with COVID) to a three-year follow-up for all programs that have APOR, external review, or notice of intent to withdraw. This means programs with a scheduled follow-up in 2021 will instead have a review in the fall of 2022.

The eight-year accreditation schedule will now be a 3 + 3 + 2 year follow-up schedule, rather than 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 format.

From the perspective of PGME, we will schedule formal internal reviews (likely for the fall / winter of 2021- 2022 for a number of programs and require updates from the remainder to ensure we are all ready for the accreditation visit and review in November 2022.

2. Completion of Training Documentation

The PGME Office has sent the Royal College the Spring 2020 eFITER list to the CPSO to help expedite the six-month restricted registration certificates for Final Year Residents who are unable to sit the RCPSC examinations due to the pandemic. PGME will also coordinate with Family Medicine to submit the CCTs for CFPC exam eligible final year residents. If you have a resident applying for a license outside of Ontario, they will need to provide their own eFITER directly to the provincial regulator directly. Please have the resident contact Karen Lancey (karen.lancey@schulich.uwo.ca) in the PGME office directly.

3. Redeployment of residents, call schedules, and maximum duty hours

Residents can be redeployed to ensure patient care needs are met.

When a resident is redeployed:

- they must only be expected to practice within their scope of competency
- the hospital must respect advice from their treating physician if they are pregnant or immune-compromised and,
- On March 21st the Ontario Government issued a temporary order enabling hospitals to implement measures that are not consistent with the collectives (PARO-CAHO) agreement. This means that the Maximum Duty Hours can be contravened.

PARO requests that:

- we not take advantage of this time to add to residents work schedules unless necessary;
- that workload is distributed as equitably as possible amongst all team members, including staff, residents, and other trainees;
- that you consider providing rest-periods for services/residents;
- that consideration of health and safety be foremost: is the individual at a level of competence such that they can work safely, at the intensity the situation requires;

- consider using one of the PARO-approved COVID models of scheduling (see below) that could work for your service/program;
- should there be a need to make changes to the call schedule post-distribution, or after the two week deadline, provide as much notice and compassion to the affected residents as possible and, where possible, utilize the emergency clause process in the PARO-CAHO Collective Agreement (Article 16.1c):
- [https://www.sdc.gov.on.ca/sites/mol/drs/ca/Hospitals/622-43906-20%20\(821-0507\).pdf](https://www.sdc.gov.on.ca/sites/mol/drs/ca/Hospitals/622-43906-20%20(821-0507).pdf)
- residents be paid call stipends if required to work in excess of the provisions of the Agreement, even if it exceeds the maximum call stipends also included in the Agreement;
- that we all remain flexible in scheduling to support residents who are experiencing difficulties during this time, including but not limited to, residents with families to care for, grief, burnout, and anxiety.

Please see the COFM document – this was updated on March 26, 2020 by COFM.

<http://www.myparo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Residents-and-Public-Health-Emergency-Preparedness-Guideli.pdf>

The PARO website provides useful information as well regarding scheduling.

<http://www.myparo.ca/residents-and-covid-19/>

4. Competencies and Objectives during COVID-19 Pandemic

The principles agreed to by the Ontario PG Deans and communicated to residents and Program Directors:

- Being as judicious as possible in determining whether a resident has been able to sufficiently achieve the competencies in the context of measures needed to ensure the health and safety of residents and the public, including, but not limited to, time spent redeployed, in quarantine, self-isolation, or due to time off to care for children or dependents;
- Being willing to focus promotional decisions on the entirety of a residents training competencies and performance with a decreased focus on minimum or maximum time spent on certain rotations, particularly for those senior residents not currently enrolled in a CBME-program;
- Recognizing that this cohort of residents are obtaining training in medicine during a pandemic where unique competencies can be achieved that should be recognized and factored into promotion decisions;
- Recognizing that competencies achieved while redeployed will be considered as applicable and transferrable for rotations where those competencies are relevant.
- In addition, the PG Deans will continue to advocate with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to move towards more competency based training rather than time based measures for advancement.

5. Licensing issues

Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada

<https://fmrac.ca/licensing-the-2020-graduating-cohorts/>

Final year medical students who have completed training but not yet taken MCC Part I will be able to obtain an educational licence to enter residency training July 1st provided:

- i. They have an offer of a residency position in Canada
- ii. MRA has received confirmation of graduation from Dean's office of Canadian Medical School and
- iii. They must take the MCC Part I at earliest opportunity

For Residency programs – our first-year residents will be taking MCC part I at some point in the summer or fall - please be aware that this may require some accommodation of on call scheduling and time for completing the exam.

For residents completing training – there are no new updates at the current time – a temporary licence (6 month for CPSO) with requirement of minimal supervision is anticipated for residents completing training provided they are:

- i. exam eligible and provide
- ii. confirmation of completion of training and
- iii. write the first available CFPC or RCPSC certification examinations

6. Notice/Save the date: Transition to Practice Webinar for senior residents

The PGME office is happy to offer an **online webinar** with '**The Loonie Doctor**', **Dr. Mark Soth** for **Transition to Practice Senior Specialty Residents**. This will take place on **Tuesday, May 12, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

The topics Dr. Soth will include are:

- Transition to Practice & Business in Medicine
- Personal Finance
- Tax

Planning

Please save this date to support resident education and watch for an email from Kimberly Trudgeon, PGME Education Coordinator with more details and a link to sign up next week. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly by email at kimberly.trudgeon@schulich.uwo.ca

7. Medical Students – clinical start date =- currently it is anticipated that medical students will begin back on clinical placements July 6, 2020.

8. International Trainees

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has approved exemptions to COVID-19 travel restriction measures for foreign nationals who are authorized to travel to Canada to work, including temporary workers who were already established in Canada or who had made arrangements to come to Canada to work before the travel restrictions were put in place. The exemption includes new workers who are coming to Canada to be employed in critical industries such as the health services. Our new international trainees, and any current trainees who left Canada before the border closure, will be allowed to enter Canada.

These foreign nationals can self-identify to airlines at the point of boarding that they are exempt under this provision by presenting:

- a valid work permit, or
- a letter of introduction from IRCC (all new incoming trainees will have this document once their work permit application has been approved)
- letter of invitation from a relevant organization in Canada (this has been provided to the trainee by the PGME office)

The other half of the question of whether new international trainees will be able to arrive for their appointment is whether their home country has closed their airports or ceased outgoing international flights. I will be reaching out to all our new international trainees to inform them that they will be allowed to enter Canada, and to ask to be kept updated on their plans to arrive in Canada.