

April 2, 2020

CFPC GUIDE: COMPLETION OF TRAINING DECISIONS AND ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION DURING THE 2020 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Even though training in family medicine is competency based, our programs are, relatively speaking, exceedingly short, and time is a critical contributor to competency development that cannot be ignored.

For the purposes of this document, missed training time is when a resident is actually off work (e.g., not attending educational experiences/rotations due to illness or quarantine, cancelled educational placement with no ability to be reassigned elsewhere, or other). Disrupted training – where originally scheduled experiences/rotations have been re-configured into a different experience, are not considered missed training time.

The Board of Examinations and Certification has determined that any PGY2 resident graduating in 2020 who misses a total of >12¹ of training time, over their 24-month program, cannot be considered to have completed their residency program. The 2020 Pandemic Waiver is not to be applied to any resident who has missed >12 weeks of residency training time. (e.g., A resident misses 14 weeks of training time. The program director cannot apply the 4-week waiver and claim the resident has only missed 10 weeks.)

The impacts of the pandemic on current PGY1 resident training has not been considered in the crafting of this guideline. Further information is to follow regarding this group.

1. SCENARIO 1: RESIDENT TRAINING UNAFFECTED – NO MISSED TIME

This is the usual scenario, and residency program directors will:

- ✓ Notify the CFPC of successful program completion for a certification decision following successful completion of the certification examination.
- ✓ Prepare and send documentation of successful program completion to the provincial regulatory authority/licensing college (usually done via the PGME/PG Deans office)

2. SCENARIO 2: RESIDENT HAS MISSED ≤ 4 WEEKS OF TRAINING TIME *IN TOTAL*

The residency program director will determine eligibility for the CFPC 4-week 'general waiver' of training based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Academic progress has been satisfactory throughout the program– no formal remediation required
- ✓ No major professionalism breaches on record
- ✓ Has reasonably achieved the program's competency requirements and there are no fundamental concerns about the ability to provide safe and effective patient care

If all three of the above criteria are met, then the residency program director will:

- Notify the CFPC of successful program completion for a certification decision following successful completion of the certification examination.
- Prepare and send documentation of successful program completion to the provincial regulatory authority/licensing college (usually done via the PGME/PG Deans office)

¹ 12 weeks was chosen as the upper limit given that many programs have eight weeks of electives. Adding the four weeks general waiver to eight weeks elective time gave us the rationale for a 12-week maximum window

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If all three of the above criteria are not met, then the residency program director will pursue additional training time to satisfy program and certification requirements.

3. SCENARIO 3: RESIDENT HAS MISSED 4-12 WEEKS OF TRAINING IN TOTAL

The CFPC Board of Examination and Certification (BEC) will consider longer waivers of training past 4-weeks, up to a maximum of 12 weeks in total, based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Criteria for the 4-week general waiver have been met (*from above*)
 - *Academic progress has been satisfactory throughout the program– no formal remediation required*
 - *No major professionalism breaches on record*
 - *Has reasonably achieved the program’s competency requirements and there are no concerns about the ability to provide safe and effective patient care*

AND

- ✓ The learning experiences affected by the additional time lost are considered by the Program Director to be ‘minor’ in nature, such as, but not limited to:
 - Electives
 - Focused research/project time
 - A rotation/experience that is NOT the only exposure to that domain of care
 - A rotation/experience that reinforces competencies already gained

If all the above four criteria are met, then the residency program director may:

- Apply to BEC for recognition of completion in shorter time, providing an account of how criteria have been met for this resident.
- Prepare and send documentation of successful program completion to the provincial regulatory authority/licensing college (usually done via the PGME/PG Deans office)

If all of the above four criteria are not met, then the residency program director will pursue additional training time to satisfy program and certification requirements.

4. SCENARIO 4: RESIDENT HAS MISSED > 12 WEEKS OF TRAINING IN TOTAL

The CFPC Board of Examinations and Certification will not recognize completion of training for residents who have missed more than 12 weeks of training time in total. The 4-week waiver cannot be applied where >12 weeks of training time has been missed.