



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants, Residents, RDoS & PGME Staff (copies to: SHA, CPSS, College of Medicine Academic & Administrative Leads)

SUBJECT: PGME UPDATE: 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
**REDEPLOYMENT, POSSIBLE IMPACT ON RESIDENCY COMPLETION AND LICENSURE;
EXEMPTIONS FROM CLINICAL ROTATIONS, LEAVES, VACATIONS
&
INFORMATION FROM THE CPSS REGARDING LICENSURE**

FROM: Dr. Anurag Saxena, Associate Dean, PGME

DATE: March 25, 2020

To assist our residents, programs, other decision-makers regarding completion of residency and provision of clinical care, the following information is being provided. **There is a need for a dialectic approach to ensure emergent clinical service provision and satisfactory completion of residency in a timely manner**

Please refer to the following for specific topics:

- 1) CLINICAL SERVICE, REDEPLOYMENT, LICENSURE (see also pages 3 & 4 for information from the CPSS on licence)**
 - a) Redeployment document had been circulated earlier – programs are following the processes.
 - b) **Following scenarios are possible (Independent vs. supervised practice by our residents):**
 - i) **Work independently: Residents who already have prior certifications** (e.g.; R-IVs in Internal Medicine specialties, R3 in Family Medicine, R6 in Child and Adolescent Psych and Forensic Psych, some residents in PHPM who have completed Family Medicine certification, other unique situations) **and a CPSS licence to practice independently** would be able to work independently in areas of qualifications should a clinical need arise.
 - (1) Please discuss with the residents that this likely will lead to extension of training as the clinical experiences and the lack of supervision during this deployment would not meet the requirements of their current residency program.
 - ii) A **provisional licence** is likely to be granted to the residents at the end of completion of residency (usually June 30; could be a different end-date for off-cycle residents) who are exam eligible.
 - (1) The conditions of a provisional licence will include stipulations by the CPSS.
 - (2) The programs will need to determine whether the provisional completion of residency requires any additional training/assessment (e.g.; if there have been considerable changes in the rotations/learning experiences as a result of the current situation).
 - (3) Please note all national certification examinations have been postponed until fall, at least.
 - iii) **Other senior residents can function in areas of need** (somewhat similar to **principles** of moonlighting and independent clinical practice) provided appropriate supervision is available and the PD has signed off indicating the residents have the competencies required.
 - (1) Please discuss with the residents the possible impact on residency training if the parent program's competency requirements are going to be affected.
 - iv) There is a category of **Emergency licence** (different from Provisional licence) that can be granted by the CPSS but only for the period of the emergency.
 - (1) It is highly likely that the rare residents asked to work in this manner would have an extension of training and further assessments (to meet residency training requirements) so please consider this route very carefully and the residents must know what they are agreeing to.



- c) The requests/decisions for redeployment will involve the PDs and RPC and Department Heads/Area leads and Associate Dean, Regina Campus (for Regina), Associate Dean PGME and Vice Dean Education. **A fast turnaround time is expected by our apex leadership.**
 - d) **Ongoing redeployment to ICU:** The programs will work individually with Director Education in Critical Care and will keep the PGME office informed/involved.
 - e) At this time, **only the numbers of residents** (senior/junior, exam eligible etc.) will be shared outside of PGME (except for licensure purposes, as and if required by the CPSS)
 - f) As per discussions with CPSS, **all requests for provisional licence (and the emergency licence) for our residents need to be coordinated through the PGME / College of Medicine** and we will collaborate with SHA (since privileges will also need to be granted). The final sign-off on satisfactory completion of residency will follow our usual processes and will come from the PGME office.
- 2) VOLUNTARY EXEMPTION FROM CLINICAL ROTATIONS**
- a) Please discuss with residents in your programs and ensure **voluntary exemption from clinical rotations for residents who are pregnant or immunocompromised.**
 - i) All disclosures should be the minimal amount necessary to implement the required changes and should be shared on a need-to-know basis only.
 - ii) All efforts should be made to consider alternate placements on other learning experiences for the completion at the original end of training date (e.g.; research, teaching, provision of distance telehealth and other activities that would be unique to your program or other duties as determined by the program) instead of a paid leave of absence. Please discuss the possibility of extension of training, should all competencies not be acquired by the original end of training date.
- 3) ACADEMIC LEAVES**
- a) Since the national certification examinations have been postponed at least until fall and we are moving towards provisional licensure, there is no need for academic leaves at this point for exam eligible residents.
 - b) For residents on modified learning plans or other unique situations, PGME staff is available for any discussion that might need to occur.
- 4) VACATIONS**
- a) The exam eligible residents may not have an opportunity to avail of any leaves left at this point due to redeployment. Should this occur, the vacation will be paid out.
 - b) If for clinical need reasons, other residents (not in the final year of training) are unable to take vacation, they may defer it but should take their vacations within the duration of the residency; unique situations would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you for your attention. The **PGME office** will work with all residents, programs and staff during this time and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anurag Saxena
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education,
College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

The decisions and recommendations have been developed after input from key stakeholders relevant to that area.



The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan – Licensing
(circulated as provided by and with the permission of the CPSS)

Emergency licensure

1. Currently residents who are in post-graduate training are licensed under an educational licence. This requires them to work within the confines of the residency position with the requisite amount of supervision as dictated by the Program Directors. Residents who hold an educational licence cannot practise medicine independently. They can only practise medicine within the confines of their residency program.

A resident can only practise outside of the scope of their residency program in one of two circumstances:

- The resident has been approved to engage in “moonlighting”, which requires payment of an additional fee and approval by both the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSS) and the residency program; or
- The resident has been granted an emergency licence by the CPSS (discussed below)

Question:

How can a resident qualify for an emergency licence?

Emergency licences are issued at no cost to the physician and automatically expire when the declaration of emergency ends. The applicant must have CMPA coverage and complete a simplified application for an emergency licence.

Answer #1 – Emergency licensure for residents in a sub-specialty program who have Royal College certification in their primary specialty or who have CCFP and are currently in a third year of residency in family medicine.

Residents who are engaged in subspecialty PG training who have general specialty certification are eligible for a regular licence if they have LMCC. Residents who have CCFP and LMCC and are taking a third year of training are also eligible for a regular licence.

A resident who seeks a regular licence will be required to meet the usual requirement for licensure, including paying the regular fee for licensure and obtaining CMPA coverage.

The Registrar’s office will consider granting an emergency licence to such physicians to allow them to provide patient care that is not within the scope of their residency program.

Residents who have FRCP/FRCS/CCFP and who seek an emergency licence should obtain the permission of the College of Medicine and should be privileged by the Saskatchewan Health Authority to do this.

Answer #2 – Emergency licensure for residents who have not attained CCFP/FRCP/FRCS

CPSS will only issue emergency licences to residents without certification if each of the conditions have been met:

- The College of Medicine has approved the resident to provide medical care outside of the scope of their residency program, and
- The SHA has authorized the resident to provide such care in a SHA facility.



Licensure for residents completing their residency program

Some residents will complete their programs but will not have obtained the requirements for a regular licence (FRCP/FRCS/CCFP). Due to Covid-19 the examinations will not be available before residents complete their residency program.

Question

Will residents be able to be licenced for independent practice without having challenged and passed the certifying examinations of the Royal College or the College of Family Physicians?

Answer

Residents who have successfully completed their post-graduate training will be eligible for a provisional licence without having challenged or passed their Royal College or College of Family Physicians certifying examinations as long as they hold eligibility to challenge those examinations.

A provisional licence has a requirement for supervision, but it is a licence for independent practice. As long as the candidate holds eligibility to write the certifying examinations they will be allowed to maintain a provisional licence. The College will be reviewing the supervision requirements prior to the end of the residency programs. At present the CPSS has not decided whether supervision will be a requirement for such physicians.

Residents who have not attained the LMCC but who have eligibility to write the certifying examinations will be eligible for a provisional licence.

Licensure for international medical students entering a residency program

Some medical students will not have passed MCCQE1 which is the usual requirement for an educational licence.

Question

Will medical students be licensed to participate in a residency program without passing MCCQE1?

Answer

Physicians who have completed their medical degree at a LCME/CACMS approved school are not required to have passed MCCQE1 for an educational licence. The CPSS will grant an educational licence to medical students who have completed a medical degree at an institution that is not LCME/CACMS approved and who are accepted into a residency program but have not passed MCCQE1.