



## PGME COVID 19 UPDATE

MARCH 24 2020

### CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

I am aware that postponement of the examinations has caused additional stress for residents. The Colleges are still in the process of sorting out logistics to deliver written exams (RCPS) in the early fall. The plan from CFPC is as previously outlined. No new information was made available today.

### PGME WEBSITE AND NEW FAQ

Some of you will already have noticed that there is a new link on the PGME website-landing page. The PGME Assistant Deans and Directors are compiling the questions you are directing to their emails to create a FAQ sheet available to all. This will be updated on a daily basis.

### COVID APP FOR PHYSICIANS

A new APP is available to support physicians with real-time guidelines (eg. donning/doffing, treatments, isolation practices, etc.) as relates to COVID-19. This is an application fully supported by AHS, is updated twice daily, can support personal devices (Android and Apple), and is free to install. Search for **Spectrum ID**. Please see the link here for further information: <https://spectrum.app/>

### RESIDENT REDEPLOYMENT

Many thanks to programs that have submitted lists of residents suitable for redeployment if required. I want to stress several points to the resident volunteers:

- Residents are being asked to volunteer for redeployment and I want to thank so many of you who have come forward.
- **No resident will be reassigned without prior discussion with the Program Director**
- Decisions regarding redeployment will be made based on each resident's skill set and suitability for redeployment. Your Program Directors have provided information about preferences for redeployment and areas considered suitable/not suitable.
- Every effort will be made not to reassign multiple residents from a single program –this is particularly the case for smaller programs

I appreciate that residents are concerned about the impact of redeployment on completion of competencies in the home program. There are issues I do not yet have comprehensive answers for---they are being addressed by a committee of PG Deans, and representatives of the Colleges and Resident Physicians Organizations across the country. I will be meeting with the Assistant Deans and Directors at PGME to begin to address at a local level.

I know this is very stressful and I am going to ask for patience as we navigate this complex situation. Please be assured the interests and success of trainees is a priority in all these deliberations.

### **CPSA EMERGENCY REGISTER**

As some of you are aware, contingency plans are being put in place to address the possibility of increased demand for staff physicians. One strategy is to offer eligible senior residents registration for independent practice on the Emergency Register during the pandemic. This would allow residents in subspecialty programs and some fellowships, who have successfully completed RCPS examinations in their primary specialty, to take over the role of MRP on a temporary basis—likely limited to 60 days at the moment. This process is being implemented in many other jurisdictions across the country.

CPSA has not yet finalized this process. In the interim, PGME will move forward to collect the names of individuals who would be eligible for, and interested in pursuing the option of being placed on the Emergency Register

Again, I need to emphasize a number of points to try to allay anxiety. **This is an entirely voluntary initiative. NO trainee will be compelled to move into the role as the MRP.** The goal is to facilitate the process for those who are comfortable with this transition. The data I am collecting from your programs is intended to get a census of how many individuals would be eligible and also whether there is interest.

There are a number of issues that will need to be addressed for trainees who want to pursue this option, including CMPA status. I am working with a variety of stakeholders to sort these out and will provide follow up as soon as possible.

### **TO PGME TRAINEES.....**

I appreciate the stress the pandemic is causing both in terms of delivery of health care in an uncertain environment, and the myriad issues that are unique for trainees. I will continue to work to resolve your concerns both locally and in collaboration with PG Deans across the country. New information will be circulated as it becomes available.

Many thanks for your support and patience in this challenging time.

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