



Postgraduate Medical Education
Covid – 19 Update
April 18, 2021

CPSA Reminder:

I have been asked to remind trainees to ensure that CPSA is notified of success in certification examinations. This change in status needs to be included in the annual Registration Information Form. New RCPS credentials must be made available to CPSA. Once these steps are taken an updated Registration Understanding and Acknowledgement (RUA) is completed. Until a physician presents credentials and signs off the new RUA their new status is not recognized.

CPSA also indicated that it is not possible to backdate registration for a regulated member.

For more detail on CPSA registration policy please follow the link below:

<https://cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CPSA-Updating-Certification-Policy.pdf>

Royal College Examinations:

Candidates for the certification examination in Internal Medicine received notice earlier this week that the Royal College has decided to cancel the applied component for the exam cycle in spring 2021. Residents who are successful at the written exam will be immediately eligible for certification.

The RCPS also communicated its expectation that exams will continue to be delivered in a virtual format for at least another year—including the fall 2021 and spring 2022 examinations. For candidates who select the in-person option (i.e. in a designated exam center hotel) the RCPS now has capacity to pivot to a remote set-up for individual candidates on relatively short (i.e.48 hour) notice.

Electives:

As you know, a joint decision was made by both universities in Alberta to resume incoming and outgoing electives as of Block 11. As the 3rd wave continues and Covid patient volumes increase, hospitals and jurisdictions continue to update their policies and procedures. I am sure you are all aware of the evolving situation in Ontario where a decision was recently made to close interprovincial travel between that province and its neighbours in Manitoba and Quebec.

Below is a short summary of the most recent information I have available with regard to the status of electives and isolation requirements across the country. These data were communicated to me by each PG Dean within the last week:

Memorial	Electives open-- absolute requirement to self-isolate upon arrival
Dalhousie	Electives open- 2 week quarantine and 2 negative Covid tests day 5 and 12
McGill	Electives - all cancelled until September
Sherbrook	Electives open but with varying isolation/testing requirements
Queens*	Electives open but quarantine X 1 week with negative Covid test day 7 and then work place isolate X 1 week
Ottawa*	No outgoing electives --incoming under review
Toronto	No IM electives till end of June (at U of T IM includes Emergency Medicine)

McMaster*	TBA
Western*	TBA
U of S*	Electives re-opened in April--but are reconsidering
U of Manitoba	Electives open with 14 day isolation requirement
U of Alberta	Electives open
UBC	No IM electives till end of June

I will also note that the restrictions are under review at several centers in view of 3rd wave (as indicated by *)

I will reiterate advice I have provided in the past --- that you must have a backup plan in place since it is conceivable that an elective experience will be cancelled on short notice. It is also unclear whether restrictions to interprovincial travel will be expanded and/or whether other provinces will follow suit. A reminder that the majority of Medical Regulatory Authorities have committed to reimbursing costs for cancelled electives.

Electives in centers that require 14 day isolation periods are not going to be feasible and should not be contemplated.

This is a fluid situation as each university/province adapts to the local context of the pandemic and stresses on the health care system due to rising Covid patient numbers. I will continue to monitor the situation both locally and across the country. I will certainly make you aware of any significant changes or decision-making that will impact elective opportunities.



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