

## Frequently Asked Questions: Nuclear Medicine

### Program Citations

**If a program goes unfilled and has a scheduled site visit in the near future, will the program receive a citation?**

No. If an accredited program is in good standing and goes unfilled, there is no citation. The Review Committee for Nuclear Medicine recognizes that since nuclear medicine residencies tend to be small programs within a highly specialized field of medicine, program vacancies can occur.

### Program Personnel and Resources

**What constitutes program changes that require communication with the Review Committee? [Program Requirement II.A.4.o).(2)]**

Written notifications and/or requests must be made to the Review Committee when there is:

- a change in program sponsorship
- a change in the program director
- a significant loss of educational resources or resident experience
- a significant loss of faculty

**Can the one year of experience as a nuclear medicine faculty member, which is a required qualification for appointment as program director, take place at another institution? [Program Requirement II.A.3.d)]**

Yes. The required one-year experience as a nuclear medicine faculty member is not institution-specific.

**Must the dedicated program coordinator who assists the program director, be assigned to the department? [Program Requirement II.C.1.]**

No. As long as there is one individual designated to assist the program director in his/her administrative role, the program coordinator need not be specifically assigned to the department. This individual may function as the program coordinator for other programs.

### Resident Appointments - Eligibility Criteria

**What is the rationale for requiring a minimum of nine months of direct patient care in the prerequisite year for individuals entering at the NM1 level? [Program Requirement III.A.1.a)]**

Residents entering nuclear medicine residency programs must have a sufficiently broad knowledge of medicine to obtain a pertinent history, perform an appropriate physical examination, arrive at a differential diagnosis and communicate effectively.

**What educational experiences are required for acceptance into the NM1 level of a residency program? [Program Requirement III.A.1.a)]**

Residents must have successfully completed one year in emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, surgery or surgical specialties or transitional year accredited by the ACGME, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

## Educational Program

### **Why does the Review Committee suggest that residents document the completion of a minimum of 25 pediatric nuclear medicine procedures per year? [Program Requirement IV.A.6.a).(4).(a).(iii).(a)]**

It is unrealistic to attempt to establish a minimum, or benchmark, number of cases to which residents *should be* exposed without firm data about the number of cases to which they actually *are* exposed. With the implementation of case logs and learning portfolios, the Review Committee will be able to obtain the requisite data about resident experience necessary for the establishment of benchmarks for minimum resident experience. The establishment of benchmarks, which is part of the ACGME Milestone Project, focuses on resident experience, and outcomes, rather than on institutional data, and has not previously been required.

### **How often does a program need to schedule journal club activities? [Program Requirement IV.A.3.c)]**

Residents need to follow the scientific progress in nuclear medicine in order to apply this knowledge to patient care. Programs need to ensure that scheduled journal club sessions are sufficient in number for resident physicians to become familiar with the major peer-reviewed journals in nuclear medicine. Documentation of journal club attendance may be requested during the site visit.

### **How much time should the resident dedicate to scholarly activities (i.e., dedicated research)? [Program Requirement IV.B.]**

Residents should participate in scholarly activities to augment their understanding of research in the field of nuclear medicine. Although there is no specific time allotment for this requirement, the program needs to provide a curriculum that advances the resident's knowledge of basic research methodologies. The length of the research experience must not compromise the resident's education in general nuclear medicine.

### **Is attendance at lectures and journal club, and participation in administrative committees, considered scholarly activities? [Program Requirement IV.B.]**

No. Attending lectures or journal club, and participating in administrative committees (local, state, regional, or national) are certainly important and essential aspects of resident education. However, these activities cannot substitute for the scholarly activities and other academic pursuits essential for the advancement of nuclear medicine as a specialty, and by which residents gain exposure to the way research is conducted.