FAQ: Can a resident participate in a rotation at a facility abroad in order to obtain experience in providing anesthesia in austere conditions or other environments?

Program Requirement I.B.3)(b) Yes, residents can participate in a rotation abroad under two conditions. First, the rotation must clearly fulfill educational purposes and not service needs. Second, the rotation must have received prospective approval from the Review Committee to ensure that residents obtain credit for the experience. If an international rotation is not part of the department’s approved rotations within the accredited program, program directors must obtain prospective approval from the ABA’s Credentials Committee so that all individual residents or fellows can participate in these elective rotations.

To request prospective approval of an international rotation (which would become part of the accredited program), submit a letter addressed to the Executive Director of the Review Committee for Anesthesiology, co-signed by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO), addressing the following elements:

1. Educational rationale (A statement describing the unique educational experience that will be provided to the resident during this international rotation)

2. A description of the clinical experience, to include:
   a. type of institution (governmental, non-governmental, private)
   b. clinical experiences at the institution
   c. a description of the support services available at the institution
   d. indication as to whether the clinical experience will be included in the case logs
   e. competency-based goals and objectives for the rotation
   f. competency-based forms for evaluation of the residents, the faculty, and the rotation
   g. requirements for resident participation
   h. supervision and oversight, including a description of the faculty at the international site and the relationship of that faculty to the program director and faculty of the core program.
   i. number of residents that can participate
   j. minimum/maximum duration of rotation

3. Responsibilities for expenses associated with the rotation, including travel and living expenses (including an estimated cost for participation and the expectations of the resident to cover any expenses)

4. Specification of terms for malpractice and general liability coverage

5. A description of the educational resources that must include access to a library with reasonably current resources or reliable access to web-based educational materials

6. A statement addressing physical environmental issues, including housing, transportation, communication, safety, and language

7. A signed agreement between the program and the international site or organization

8. Curricula vitae of the faculty member at the international site responsible for resident education, including details of this faculty member’s education, certification, and relationship to the core program and program director

9. Plan for monitoring compliance with ACGME duty hour requirements

Note: The Review Committee for Anesthesiology can grant expedited approval for international rotations if specifically requested and when (a) all the requisite elements listed above are provided, and (b) a faculty member from the resident’s primary program or another diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology approved by the Review Committee will be on-site at the international hospital during the entire course of each resident rotation.