

Specialty-Specific Program Requirements: Direct Supervision Using Telecommunication Technology

Effective as of July 1, 2021

Common Program Requirements are in bold

The Common Program Requirements allow Review Committees the option of permitting direct supervision through the use of telecommunication technology, as defined below in VI.A.2.b).(1).(b):

VI.A.2.b).(1)

Direct Supervision:

VI.A.2.b).(1).(a)

the supervising physician is physically present with the resident during the key portions of the patient interaction; or, ^(Core)

[The Review Committee may further specify]

VI.A.2.b).(1).(a).(i)

PGY-1 residents must initially be supervised directly, only as described in VI.A.2.c).(1).(a). ^(Core)

[The Review Committee may describe the conditions under which PGY-1 residents progress to be supervised indirectly]

VI.A.2.b).(1).(b)

the supervising physician and/or patient is not physically present with the resident and the supervising physician is concurrently monitoring the patient care through appropriate telecommunication technology. ^(Core)

[The Review Committee may further specify if VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) is permitted]

[The Review Committee will choose to require either VI.A.2.c).(1).(a), or both VI.A.2.c).(1).(a) and VI.A.2.c).(1).(b)]

Additionally, as stated in the Common Program Requirements, Review Committees may further define expectations related to direct supervision, as defined in VI.A.2.b).(1).(b).

The table below lists whether each specialty/subspecialty will permit direct supervision through telecommunications technology as of July 1, 2021 and, where applicable, additional specialty specific program requirements.

Note that some Review Committees are still considering whether to permit direct supervision as defined in VI.A.2.b).(1).(b), and/or considering the development of specialty-specific program requirements addressing this type of supervision. Updates will be provided in the ACGME e-Communication and this document will be updated annually.

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Allergy and Immunology	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) When residents are supervised directly through telecommunication technology, the supervising physician and the resident must interact directly to solicit the key points of allergy and immunology elements of the visit and agree upon a management plan. <small>(Detail)</small>
Anesthesiology	No	
Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine Obstetric Anesthesiology Pediatric Anesthesiology Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine	No	
Colon and Rectal Surgery	Yes	n/a
Dermatology	No	
Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology Pediatric Dermatology	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Diagnostic Radiology	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which competencies must be demonstrated to determine when a resident can progress to indirect supervision. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the residents, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a resident would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Interventional Radiology	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which competencies must be demonstrated to determine when a resident can progress to indirect supervision. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the residents, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a resident would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Abdominal Radiology Musculoskeletal Radiology Neuroradiology Nuclear Radiology Pediatric Radiology	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which competencies must be met to determine when a fellow can progress to indirect supervision. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the fellows, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a fellow would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Emergency Medicine	Yes	n/a

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Emergency Medical Services	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which Competencies must be met to determine when a fellow can progress to be supervised indirectly. ^(Core)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: When delineating the Competencies necessary for fellow progression to be supervised indirectly, the Review Committee suggests the Competencies include Milestones or other program-derived assessments.</p> </div> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the fellows, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a fellow would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Family Medicine	Yes	n/a
Internal Medicine	Yes	n/a

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Adult Congenital Heart Disease Advanced heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Cardiovascular Disease Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Critical Care Medicine Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism Gastroenterology Hematology Hematology and Medical Oncology Infectious Disease Interventional Cardiology Medical Oncology Nephrology Pulmonary Disease Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Rheumatology Transplant Hepatology	Yes	n/a
Medical Genetics and Genomics	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) Direct supervision through appropriate telecommunication technology must be limited to history-taking and patient examination, assessment, and counseling. <small>(Core)</small>

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Clinical Biochemical Genetics Laboratory Genetics and Genomics	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) Direct supervision through appropriate telecommunication technology must be limited to: VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i).(a) discussions with faculty members, staff members, and other health care professionals regarding report interpretations; ^(Core) VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i).(b) clinic appointments held via telehealth methods; and, ^(Core) VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i).(c) remotely viewing laboratory data in the course of interpreting results and issuing reports. ^(Core)
Medical Biochemical Genetics	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) Direct supervision through appropriate telecommunication technology must be limited to history-taking and patient examination, assessment, and counseling. ^(Core)
Neurological Surgery	No	
Neurology	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) When residents are supervised directly through telecommunication technology, the supervising physician and the resident must interact with each other, and the patient, to solicit the key elements of the clinic visit and agree upon a management plan. ^(Detail)
Child Neurology	Yes	n/a
Clinical Neurophysiology Epilepsy Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Vascular Neurology	Yes	n/a
Nuclear Medicine	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The supervision policy must define when it is acceptable to monitor procedures via telecommunications technology and be consistent with Nuclear Regulatory Commission and/or state radiation safety regulations. ^(Core)

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) Telecommunication technology for direct supervision must not be used for the management of labor and delivery or with invasive procedures. (Core)
Maternal-Fetal Medicine	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The use of telecommunication technology for direct supervision must not be used for the management of labor and delivery or with invasive procedures. (Core)
Complex Family Planning Gynecologic Oncology Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility	No	
Ophthalmology	No	
Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	No	
Orthopaedic Surgery	No	
Adult Reconstructive Orthopaedic Surgery Foot and Ankle Orthopaedic Surgery Musculoskeletal Oncology Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Orthopaedic Surgery of the Spine Orthopaedic Trauma Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	No	
Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery	No	
Neurotology	No	
Pediatric Otolaryngology	No	
Pathology	No	
Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine Chemical Pathology Cytopathology Forensic Pathology Hematopathology Medical Microbiology Neuropathology Pediatric Pathology Selective Pathology	No	
Pediatrics	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Adolescent Medicine Child Abuse Pediatrics Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Pediatric Cardiology Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Pediatric Endocrinology Pediatric Gastroenterology Pediatric Hematology Oncology Pediatric Hospital Medicine Pediatric Infectious Diseases Pediatric Nephrology Pediatric Pulmonology Pediatric Rheumatology Pediatric Transplant Hepatology	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) Prior to allowing supervision through telecommunication, residents must have demonstrated the ability to perform the procedure while the supervising physician was physically present. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i).(a) If the supervising physician is monitoring the procedure through telecommunication technology, but is not physically present on-site, a back-up supervising physician must be physically present to immediately assume care, if needed. ^(Core)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Specialty-specific Background and Intent: The types of procedures that are appropriate to perform utilizing telesupervision depend on several factors including patient complexity and risk, in addition to the resident's level of training and previous experience performing the procedure. Routine peripheral joint and soft tissue injections are examples of procedures that could readily be considered for telesupervision if the resident has had sufficient experience and demonstrated the ability to competently perform the procedure. Procedures such as axial spine injections are riskier procedures that are more appropriately performed under direct supervision.</p> </div>
Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Spinal Cord Injury Medicine	Yes	n/a
Plastic Surgery	Yes	n/a
Craniofacial Plastic Surgery	Yes	n/a
Preventive Medicine	Yes	n/a
Psychiatry	Yes	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) When a resident requiring direct supervision provides remote care, the supervising physician must be physically present with the resident. ^(Core)

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Addiction Psychiatry Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry Forensic Psychiatry Geriatric Psychiatry	Yes	n/a
Radiation Oncology	No	
Surgery	No	
Complex General Surgical Oncology Pediatric Surgery Surgical Critical Care	No	
Vascular Surgery (Integrated)	No	
Vascular Surgery (Independent)	No	
Thoracic Surgery - Integrated	No	
Thoracic Surgery - Independent	No	
Congenital Cardiac Surgery	No	
Transitional Year	No	
Urology	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Pediatric Urology	No	
Multidisciplinary Specialties/Subspecialties		
Addiction Medicine (subspecialty of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, or Psychiatry)	No	
Brain Injury Medicine (Subspecialty of Child Neurology, Neurology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Psychiatry)	Yes	n/a
Clinical Informatics (Subspecialty of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Medical Genetics and Genomics, Pathology, Pediatrics, Preventive Medicine, or Radiology)	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Dermatopathology (Subspecialty of Dermatology and Pathology)	No	
Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology (Subspecialty of Child Neurology, Diagnostic Radiology, Neurological Surgery, or Neurology)	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which competencies must be demonstrated to determine when a fellow can progress to indirect supervision. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i).(a) These guidelines should stipulate that indirect supervision using telecommunication technology should be limited to patient evaluation for treatment and/or patient follow-up visits and should not be used in the performance of endovascular surgical neuroradiology procedures. ^(Core)</p> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the fellows, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a fellow still requires direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery	No	
Geriatric Medicine (Subspecialty of Family Medicine or Internal Medicine)	Yes	n/a
Hand Surgery (Subspecialty of Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, and Surgery)	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Hospice and Palliative Medicine (Subspecialty of Anesthesiology, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, or Radiation Oncology)	No	
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics (Combined program for Internal Medicine and Pediatrics)	No	
Medical Toxicology (subspecialty of Emergency Medicine or Preventive Medicine)	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which Competencies must be met to determine when a fellow can progress to be supervised indirectly. ^(Core)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: When delineating the Competencies necessary for fellow progression to be supervised indirectly, the Review Committee suggests the Competencies include Milestones or other program-derived assessments.</p> </div> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the fellows, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a fellow would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>
Molecular Genetic Pathology (subspecialty of Medical Genetics and Genomics or Pathology)	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Neuromuscular Medicine (subspecialty of Child Neurology, Neurology, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)	Yes	n/a
Pain Medicine (Subspecialty of Anesthesiology, Child Neurology, Neurology, or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)	Yes	n/a
Pediatric Emergency Medicine (subspecialty of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine)	No	
Sleep Medicine (Subspecialty of Child Neurology, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, or Psychiatry)	No	
Sports Medicine (Subspecialty of Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation)	No	

Specialty/Subspecialty Name	VI.A.2.c).(1).(b) Permitted 7/1/2021	Specialty/Subspecialty-Specific Language
Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (subspecialty of Emergency Medicine or Preventive Medicine)	Yes	<p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(i) The program must have clear guidelines that delineate which Competencies must be met to determine when a fellow can progress to be supervised indirectly. ^(Core)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Specialty-Specific Background and Intent: When delineating the Competencies necessary for fellow progression to be supervised indirectly, the Review Committee suggests the Competencies include Milestones or other program-derived assessments.</p> </div> <p>VI.A.2.c).(1).(b).(ii) The program director must ensure that clear expectations exist and are communicated to the fellows, and that these expectations outline specific situations in which a fellow would still require direct supervision. ^(Core)</p>