Guide to Construction of a Block Diagram for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Programs

Review Committee for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

A block diagram is a representation of the rotation schedule for a resident in a given post-graduate year. It offers information on the type, location, length, and variety of rotations for that year. The block diagram shows the rotations a resident would have each year; it does not represent the order in which they occur. There should be only one block diagram for each year of education in the program. The block diagram must not include resident names.

- Create and upload the program's block diagram, in PDF format, using the information below as a guide.
- Two common models of the block diagram exist: the first is organized by month; the second divides the year into 13 four-week blocks. Rotations may span several of these time segments, particularly for subspecialty programs. Regardless of the model used, the block diagram must indicate how vacation time is taken. This can be done by allocating a time block to vacation, or by indicating this in a "Notes" section accompanying the block diagram.
- In constructing the block diagram, include the **participating site** at which a rotation takes place and the **name of the rotation**. If the name of the rotation does describe the nature of the rotation, then clarification should be provided. **The following abbreviations should be used when completing the block diagram:**

BIM	Brain Injury Medicine	MSK	Musculoskeletal
CON**	Consults	OBG*	Obstetrics and Gynecology
EMG	Electromyography	PAIN	Pain Medicine
ELE	Electives (experiences chosen by the residents over and above their required experiences)	PED*	Pediatrics
EM*	Emergency Medicine	PRM	Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
FM*	Family Medicine	RES	Research
GEN	General Rehabilitation	SCI	Spinal Cord Injury
GR	Geriatric Rehabilitation	SM	Sports Medicine
IEE	Individualized Educational Experiences	SURG*	Surgery
IM*	Internal Medicine	VAC	Vacation
* For programs offering four years of education and training. ** Consults should not count as inpatient or outpatient time.			

- **Group the rotations by site**. For example, list all of the rotations in Site 1 first, followed by all of the rotations in Site 2, etc. The site numbers listed in the Accreditation Data System (ADS) should be used to create the block diagram.
- For each rotation, the percentage of time a resident spends in inpatient and outpatient activities should be noted. EMGs should be noted separately and should not be counted in inpatient or outpatient time.
- The percentage of time devoted to structured research on a clinical rotation should be noted. If a block is purely research, it should be labeled as such and should *not* be associated with a participating site.

  If needed, additional information to aid in understanding the program's block diagram may be entered in a "Notes" section at the end of the block diagram.
- In any block diagram, there must be a formal allocation for vacation time. If not shown in the diagram, a "Notes" section must indicate how vacation time is taken.
- While there is no standard format for the block diagram, the Review Committee for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation recommends using one of the ACGME sample block diagrams from the following page.

©2026 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

Sample 1	*This is a commonly used example in which the year's rotations are divided into 12 (presumably one-month) rotations. Rotations may include structured outpatient or research time and electives.*											
Block	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**
Site	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1		Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 3	Site 3	
Rotation Name	GEN	GEN	SCI	SCI	RES	PRM	PRM	BIM	CON	GEN Clinic/ EMG	MSK Clinic/ EMG	VAC
% Inpatient	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	100	0	25	25	N/A
% Outpatient	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	0	0	75	75	N/A

Sample 2	*In this common example, the rotations are divided equally into 13 (presumably four-week) rotations. Rotations may include structured outpatient or research time, and electives.*												
Block	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**
Site	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1		Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 2	Site 3	Site 3	Site 3	
Rotation Name	GEN	GEN	SCI	SCI	RES	PRM	PRM	BIM	IEE	GEN Clinic/ EMG	MSK Clinic/ EMG	PAIN	VAC
% Inpatient	100	100	100	100	0	0	0	100	100	25	25	25	N/A
% Outpatient	0	0	0	0	100	100	100	0	0	75	75	75	N/A

©2026 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)