



To: Department Heads, Program Directors, Program Administrative Assistants, RDoS & PGME Staff

From: Dr. Anurag Saxena, PGME Associate Dean

RE: Incoming/Outgoing Electives & Moonlighting

Date: January 22, 2021

ELECTIVES:

Most medical doctoral universities in Canada have suspended incoming and outgoing electives until further notice; however, a few universities are still permitting these.

At the University of Saskatchewan, we have fewer programs compared to many other universities. The electives (including out of province electives and mandatory educational experiences) are essential for our residents for their future education as well as practice.

At this point in time, we are not mandating that all incoming and outgoing electives be cancelled, however these are strongly discouraged, due to the current situation with the pandemic and keeping in mind the safety of all. This decision has not been easy, and we have strived to strike a balance between the educational needs of our learners and the safety of all involved. In many instances, electives are available within our province in the desired areas although these may not be in the settings with certain unique features, such as the breadth of the clinical material, availability of simulation and other technical attributes, and unique expertise etc.

All requests for out of province electives, commencing immediately (January 25, 2021) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The request should be made to the program directors and there should be a strong justification for an out of province elective (both incoming and outgoing). All elective requests must be sent to Ms. Yvonne Siermacheski – Yvonne.siermacheski@usask.ca in the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) for final decision and commencing the process of approval by the University.

The following will be considered in the final approval decision:

1. Electives not available in Saskatchewan
2. If provincially available electives have been availed of, but new and different experiences not offered locally are being sought for either one's career or future training
3. If there is a job offer from Saskatchewan (hospital / clinic/ SHA) and a specific experience needs to be acquired in a time sensitive manner.
4. Any other justification that the resident/ program director feel should be considered.

MOONLIGHTING:

Questions have been raised regarding the ability for residents to moonlight during this pandemic. There are two considerations:

1. **The residents have been unable to write the MCCQE-II examination due to exam cancellation as a result of current Covid pandemic:**
 - a. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Medical Council of Canada is not able to administer the MCCQE-II exam. The MCCQE-II is a requirement to obtain moonlighting privileges. Until the MCC reinstates the examination process, the PGME office will temporarily allow residents to apply for moonlighting privileges if they have not written their MCCQE-II exam or do not hold a LMCC designation. The regular moonlighting policy will resume when the MCC announces dates for the MCCQE-II exam and residents without MCCQE-II or LMCC will no longer be approved to moonlight.

2. **Supervised practice required as a result of assisting with the pandemic-related work:**
 - a. If a resident is going to engage in a supervised practice beyond their program in an area because of a service need due to COVID-19, moonlighting policy/procedures will apply. The regular process for applying for moonlighting privileges will need to be followed as per the [PGME Moonlighting/ICP policy](#).
3. **Credit towards residency for moonlighting to assist with pandemic-related work:**
 - a. **No credit** will be given if the moonlighting activity is not due to pandemic needs.
 - b. A resident's time spent "moonlighting" may be considered by the parent program for credit towards residency training if this work has been performed to assist with pandemic work only. A generic evaluation form suited to the specific program's requirements would need to be developed by the program to be completed by the moonlighting supervisor(s). This form must follow CanMEDS format and include **patient safety and professionalism considerations**.
 - i. The completed evaluation form along with the program's final recommendation regarding credit towards residency must be sent to the PGME office (Jennifer Uhryn – Jennifer.uhryn@usask.ca) at the end of the moonlighting period for final decision.

VACATIONS:

The guidelines for vacation carry over, sent out earlier on January 15, 2021 apply (the memo sent earlier is attached).

CALL SCHEDULES:

This is a reminder to adhere to the timelines regarding the call schedules. Please refer to the earlier memo dated January 15, 2021 (it is attached).

VACCINATIONS:

There are ongoing inquiries and concerns regarding vaccination prioritization for our residents. A list of all residents and their rotations has been sent to the SHA. Revised lists have also been sent to the SHA. The collaborative effort between SHA, PGME and RDoS is continuing.

The focus of vaccine delivery, as defined by NACI, is to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by COVID-19. The process continues to be iteratively modified. The prioritization reflects clinical environment considerations, teams involved in the care and resources. The vaccine delivery is guided by the provincial framework, as posted by the Provincial Vaccine Oversight Committee.

<https://www.saskhealthauthority.ca/news/service-alerts-emergency-events/covid-19/vaccine-info-health-care-providers/Documents/Statement-Vaccine-Sequencing-for-HCW-and-Vulnerable-Populations-Jan14-FINAL.pdf>

To further streamline this work, the program should send all requests to Ms. Audrey Kincaid (Audrey.kincaid@usask.ca) for sending these to SHA (Dr. Takaya and Mr. Chard and RDoS (Dr. Amit Persad).

SUPPORT FOR IN-HOUSE CALL:

The College of Medicine support for all residents on in-house call by providing \$20 per day for food **is being reinstated effective today Monday January 25 till May 31 2021**. For Residents in Regina, complimentary food is available in the cafeteria. For all residents (at any site, including Regina) who either do not have access to or have been unable to avail of complimentary food service in their health service location (if available), please utilize the following process for reimbursement.

1. Residents will be responsible for providing their receipts along with evidence of service (copy of call schedule) and submitting their expenses through Concur on a bi-weekly basis
2. If you need assistance in submitting your claims, please submit a "Request a Reimbursement" e-form to Connection Point along with your receipts and they complete the process on your behalf.

3. When submitting your claim please use the default CFOAPAL and change the approver to Ms. Loni Desanghere.

Please note that due to resource constraints it is highly unlikely that this support will continue beyond May 31, 2021.

This document was developed based upon consultations with key stakeholders.

The [PGME office](#) will work with all residents, programs and staff during this time and are available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anurag Saxena
Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Saskatchewan