Key Updates for Pediatric Subspecialty Program Directors

Spring 2021

The ABP acknowledges the work of program directors is complex, challenging, and stressful. It is also critically important, meaningful and rewarding! The relationship between ABP and PDs must have a foundation of trust. Together we are responsible for verifying the competence of pediatric graduates to the public.

New Process for Requesting Waivers of Training for Parental Leave or Covid Impact for Graduating Fellows

If a graduating fellow has experienced a medical/parental/family leave or had an absence from training due to Covid-19, program directors may request a waiver by completing this form.

Up to two months of elective training (usually research time) can be waived if the program director is supportive and the fellow’s training is evaluated as satisfactory. Waivers can be requested within three months of the scheduled graduation date. There is no need for program directors to send a separate letter to request a waiver effective this year.

Please remember, the waiver is actually a recognition of competence achieved in less than the usual total duration of training (36 months) for the program.

Request a Waiver
Absences from Training: New Information to Be Shared July 2021

Details of this policy will be communicated in late spring 2021, prior to the start of the next academic year. This may affect trainees who graduate in 2022 and later.

There will be no changes to the ABP’s current Absences from Training Policy (PDF) for residents and fellows in three-year categorical residency and fellowship training programs. The policy will continue to allow up to two months of elective time to be waived beyond the usual three months of vacation/leave time allowed in a three-year residency or fellowship.

The revised policy will allow up to six weeks of elective time to be waived for pediatric hospital medicine fellows, and residents in combined training. More details and a FAQ will be provided.
Enter Your New Fellows for the Next Academic Year

Please help us ensure that trainees’ records are correct, and that requested information is completed by the established deadlines. The ABP depends on program directors and program coordinators to provide complete and accurate data so that trainees’ eligibility for certification can be determined.

Delays in obtaining correct information result in a longer credentialing process, creating undue stress on trainees.

Add your new fellows to the Program Portal by June 15, 2021. Adding them now will help ABP match their data to previous ABP records, including their residency training data and reduce tracking errors.
End-of-Year Evaluation Period for All Trainees Coming Soon

This spring, programs will be able to evaluate all trainees by completing their evaluations in the Program Portal. This includes evaluations for both final year, graduating trainees, and those who are earlier in their training period.

There will be no more paper forms to complete, notarize and send back to the ABP.

Be on the lookout in May for an update with more information. Once the window opens, you will be sent a notification with instructions for using the Fellowship Evaluation Panel, located on your Program Portal dashboard.

You have six weeks to complete the evaluations and we appreciate in advance your compliance with timely completion of all evaluations.
Verification of Competence, Scholarly Work Products, and Scholarship Oversight (SOC) Member Sign-off

At the time you enter your non-final evaluations for first and second year fellows, you will also complete the final verification of competence for graduating fellows and upload the fellows’ Scholarly Work Products. SOC members will be sent an email to alert them to sign off on the work products electronically.

Once the evaluation window opens, you will be sent a notification with instructions for using the Fellowship Evaluation Panel on your ABP Program Portal dashboard. You have six weeks to complete the evaluation.

Personal Statements No Longer Required Effective Spring 2021

We have eliminated the requirement for fellows to prepare Personal Statements that describe the Scholarly Work Product. Personal statements will not be required for fellows graduating in 2021.
Subspecialty In-Training Examination (SITE)

There were 3,694 fellows who took the 2021 SITE in February. Results were published April 6. As you know, fellows were allowed an extension to cancel the exam and receive a full refund.

We want to point out that flexibility was offered this year due to the pandemic. We anticipate that the usual deadlines and policies regarding refunds and cancellations will be effective for the 2022 SITE.

Initial Certifying Examinations: Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Pediatric Rheumatology and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Exams – April 2021

Because of the pandemic, candidates accepted to take these exams may cancel their exam up to the day of the exam and receive a full refund and a two-year extension of their eligibility for the exam.

Candidates who take the exam will commit to it being scored and if unsuccessful, no extension of eligibility will be granted.
Continuing Certification (MOC) Part 4 Credit

The ABP now offers improved options for you to apply for Part 4 credit. These templates allow you to receive credit for addressing an educational gap or issue in your program by providing a description of what you and your team were trying to improve, the changes made to the educational program to accomplish the overarching goal of the project and at least 3 data points (e.g., baseline, post-intervention, sustainability).

ACGME Annual Program Evaluation: Part 4 Improvement Template
Continuous improvement of residency and fellowship training programs is at the core of the ACGME Annual Program Evaluation. This application is designed specifically for Residency or Fellowship Program Leaders to obtain Part 4 MOC credit (25 points) for ongoing program improvement in response to the ACGME Annual Program Evaluation.

Residency and Fellowship Programs: Part 4 Improvement Template
This application is designed specifically for Residency or Fellowship Program Leaders to obtain Part 4 MOC credit (25 points) for improvements to the educational programs designed to train pediatric residents and subspecialty fellows.

These efforts may utilize a variety of improvement metrics, such as overall ITE or SITE scores, internal surveys, trainee evaluations, course evaluations, Milestones, and/or Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA).
Have Questions or Need Support?

Visit the Program Directors page for videos that demonstrate How to Use Your Program Portal, ABP requirements for training, policies and Program Director Guides for Assessment, Professionalism, Milestones, Global Health and other educational assistance.

If you have questions, you may contact us via the Communication center in the ABP Program Portal. We’re happy to help!

Visit Program Directors Page

Questions? Contact our Team

Telephone: 919-929-0461
Support Center Hours: 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. ET, M–F
Business Hours: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F
Email: sscert@abpeds.org
Program Portal: olf.abp.org