



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY

Postgraduate  
Medical Education

## Policy on Maximum Duration of Residency Training

<b>Office of Accountability:</b>	Postgraduate Medical Education
<b>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</b>	Postgraduate Medical Education
<b>Scope:</b>	All and Postgraduate Learners
<b>Approved:</b>	PGME Committee – March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023

### A. Background and Purpose

Residency training programs have a maximum period of time by which a resident must complete all the requirements for their program.

This Policy outlines the upper time limits for the completion of each residency training program, as well as the mechanisms by which extensions can be granted and implications of failing to complete training within the allowable time limit.

### B. Application

This Policy applies to all Residents enrolled in a residency training program at Dalhousie University.

## C. Policy

1. The upper time limits for the completion of a program are:

Programs	Standard Length	Max. Duration
FM Care of the Elderly, FM Emergency Medicine, Medical Microbiology, Neuroradiology, FM Palliative Care	1 years	2.5 years
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Critical Care Medicine, Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, Geriatric Psychiatry, General Internal Medicine, Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility, Hematology, Interventional Cardiology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Medical Oncology, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, Nephrology, Neuroradiology, Palliative Medicine, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Pediatric General Surgery, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Respiriology, Rheumatology	2 years	4 years
Cardiology, FM Integrated Emergency Medicine, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology	3 years	5.5 years
Hematological Pathology, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics	4 years	7 years
Anesthesiology, Anatomical Pathology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, General Pathology, Medical Microbiology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Plastic Surgery, Psychiatry, Diagnostic Radiology, Radiation Oncology, General Surgery, Urology	5 years	8.5 years
Cardiac Surgery, Neurosurgery, Nuclear Medicine	6 years	10 years

2. Under exceptional and well documented circumstances, such as an approved Leave of Absence (LOA), Part-time Training, or Parental Leave, extensions of the limits set out in 1. above may be granted. The Program Director has the delegated authority to approve the first program extension for an additional year. Any additional program extensions must be approved by the Associate Dean. Program extensions will only be considered one year at a time.
3. The time limit will be calculated from a resident's first day of work in the program and continues to keep count through any time away from the program (except CIP, see 4 below).
4. Any resident enrolled in CIP during their training will have the maximum duration timing for their regular program put on a pause. When a resident completes CIP and returns to their program the maximum duration will continue from where it left off. For the maximum duration of time a resident can be enrolled in CIP the PGME Office defers to Dalhousie's Degree Requirements for Graduate Studies.
5. Any resident who completes a transfer will be required to complete their new program in the amount of time corresponding to the length of training remaining. E.g. If a resident transfers to Anesthesiology (5 year program) and starts as a PGY 3 they have 3 remaining years. Therefore, they will be given a maximum of 5.5 years to complete Anesthesiology.
6. The program is responsible for monitoring the progression of a resident's training. If a trainee is determined to be at risk of being unable to complete their training within the allowable time

limit, appropriate steps based on the circumstances will be taken. Without limiting the steps that may be taken, a resident will be notified of this concern and given a copy of this Policy at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

7. Failure by a resident to meet the time limits set out above (including any extensions granted) will be addressed under the *Assessment of Training and Promotion Regulations* and may lead to the Resident Program Committee considering dismissal.

#### **D. Administrative Structure**

1. Authority: This Policy is sponsored by and falls under the authority of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.
2. Postgraduate Medical Education: Postgraduate Medical Education is the unit responsible for the administration of this Policy.
3. Policy Review: This Policy will be reviewed in accordance with Dalhousie's Policy on Policies or earlier if deemed necessary by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

#### **E. Procedures**

1. Additional procedures for implementation of this Policy may be developed as necessary.