

# POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION 2027

## A message from the Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education

First, let me say thank you to all our program directors, program administrators, faculty, residents and trainees for your work. This is the first of our scheduled monthly Accreditation Newsletters. I know – our Accreditation site visit is not until 2027 (it is an 8-year cycle) – so it would be reasonable to wonder if we are getting ahead of ourselves?

I think the answer is – no! Over the past three years I have been a site surveyor for several institutions (Toronto, Calgary, McMaster, Saskatchewan) and a surveyor for approximately a dozen external programs. One thing I have noticed is that if programs begin to prepare for accreditation the year or two before accreditation – they are not prepared.

Accreditation is a journey, a marathon not a sprint. It will be easier (and much less stressful) to prepare slowly but surely, and continuously, over the next three years than to try to organize your program in a short time frame (it will also be so much better for your program and residents to approach it this way).

In addition, a common theme for areas for improvement for programs is Standard 9 (Standard 7 for AFC programs) which is program continuous improvement. I have seen this with our internal reviews, as well as in my role as an external reviewer. Getting ready for accreditation is program continuous improvement – the key is to start early, document your action plans and follow up clearly in your RPC minutes (more about this in another newsletter).

Our internal reviews (yes – all our programs are scheduled for at minimum one internal review prior to 2027) will provide a road map for areas for improvement (AFIs), and our internal review subcommittee will be requesting progress reports from our programs in addressing their AFIs.

This newsletter provides some background information about the Standards of Accreditation – the next newsletters will focus on specific standards.

For background information:

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry has:

- 23 PGY1 Residency entry programs
- 26 Royal College subspecialty programs and Surgical Foundations
- 12 Family Medicine Enhanced Skills programs
- 9 Royal College Area of Focused Competence programs
- and several hundred fellows in close to a hundred fellowships.....

*Lois Champion, Associate Dean PGME*

ISSUE 1 - February 2024

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# POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION 2027

## ACCREDITATION TIMELINE

Spring	2023	DONE!
Summer		Internal Reviews of 18 Royal College program and Family Medicine
Fall		
Winter	2024	For 2024: Internal Reviews for 14 Royal College Programs
Spring		June 2024: Action Plans and Progress Reports for AFIs due
Summer		July 2024: New Standards of Accreditation for Programs
Fall		Competence by Design Royal College Update and Implementation
Winter	2025	Fall 2024: External Reviews – Adult Echocardiology
Spring		Dec 2024: Action Plans and Progress Reports for AFIs due
Summer		More Internal Reviews scheduled for 2025
Fall		Fall 2025: External Reviews - Ob/Gyn, Psychiatry, Inter. Radiology
Winter	2026	Add-on Internal Reviews: Internal Medicine, Nuclear Medicine
Spring		Focus on Competence Committees and ‘Standard 9’
Summer		Follow-up on Progress Reports
Fall		CanMEDS Project Update
Winter	2027	Add-on Internal Reviews or Mini-Reviews scheduled
Spring		Winter 2027 Begin CanAMS entries
Summer		PGME Review of CanAMS begins Spring 2027
Fall		Final Versions due Summer 2027
		On-site Review!



# POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ACCREDITATION 2027

## ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

### Why Accreditation?

- Accreditation helps to ensure the quality of residency and AFC education across Canada.
- It provides an external evaluation of the required standards.
- Accreditation contributes to the continuous quality improvement of residency programs and institutions (PGME).

### What are the Standards?

The General Standards of Accreditation for Residency Programs, and the Standards of Accreditation for Area of Focused Competence programs focus on outcomes (programs must prove that it is happening), with an emphasis on learning environment and program continuous improvement.

There are 5 domains, and for RC and CFPC programs there are 9 standards (RC AFC programs have 7 standards). Elements are a subcategory of the standards, and each element has requirements and specific indicators. Indicators are mandatory – if a single indicator is not met then the requirement is not met.

The Standards for Royal College and CFPC:

DOMAIN	STANDARD
Program Organization	1 There is an appropriate organizational structure, with leadership and administrative personnel to support the residency program, teachers, and residents effectively.
	2 All aspects of the residency program are collaboratively overseen by the program director and the residency program committee.
Education Program	3 Residents are prepared for independent practice.
Resources	4 The delivery and administration of the residency program are supported by appropriate resources.
Learners, Teachers, Administration	5 Safety and wellness are promoted throughout the learning environment.
	6 Residents are treated fairly and supported adequately throughout their progression through the residency program.
	7 Teachers deliver and support all aspects of the residency program effectively.
	8 Administrative personnel are valued and supported in the delivery of the residency program.
Continuous Improvement	9 The residency program committee systematically reviews and improves the quality of the residency program.

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## ACRONYMS 101

**AFMC** Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. If you were wondering who makes the rules about whether interviews are virtual, or if asynchronous interviews are allowed, or how many electives in a single specialty students may have, or the CaRMS timelines: it is the AFMC. [AFMC News](#) is a good resource for updates.

**CanAMS** is Canadian Accreditation Management System. If you are a program director or program administrator you will be provided access to CanAMS. it is where all the narrative and documents go for surveys and reviews.

**CanERA** Canadian Excellence in Residency Accreditation is the integration of the CFPC and Royal College Standards of Accreditation, as well as the supporting management system – CanAMS.

**CanRAC** Canadian Residency Accreditation Consortium – and is comprised of the three accrediting colleges in Canada – College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Royal College (RC or RCPSC) and the College des medecins du Quebec (CMQ).

**CBME** Competence Based Medical Education

**CBD** Competence by Design – the Royal College initiative for CBME.

**COFM** Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine – facilitates coordination and communication between the faculties of medicine of the Ontario Universities. COFM postgraduate deans meet monthly.

**COU** Council of Ontario Universities – the voice of all Ontario Universities.