University of Illinois
College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign
Internal Medicine Residency Program

Subject: Deficits in Required Training Time Waiver
Category: All services
Scope: Program

Effective Date: 02/25/2015
Revised Date:
Approved by REC: 02/25/2015

PURPOSE: To outline the Program’s policy regarding the release of a resident whose training dates are “off track” due to unavoidable delays or interruptions, but who has achieved required competence after 35 months of training.

POLICY: In order to be admitted to the Certification Exam in Internal Medicine, the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) requires residents to satisfactorily complete 36 calendar months of full-time internal medicine residency education (including vacation time), by August 31 of the year of the examination.

However, the ABIM recognizes that circumstances may arise in which training is delayed or interrupted such that training cannot be completed within a typical academic year. In such instances, if the Program Director and the Clinical Competency Committee/Residency Progress and Promotion Committee (CCC/RPPC) attest to the ABIM that a resident has achieved required competence with a deficit of less than one month, additional time may not be required. That is, when deemed competent, up to 30 days may be waived at the end of an off-cycle resident’s training dates. Example:

An internal medicine trainee who initiated training on July 15, 2014 (two weeks off cycle due to a visa delay) has a scheduled completion date of July 14, 2017. If the program director and the CCC/RPPC attest to the trainee’s competence as of June 30, 2017 on the ABIM FasTrack® final evaluation and document the reasons for the deficit in training and ABIM approves the program director’s request to apply the Deficits in Required Training Time Waiver Policy, the trainee could complete his or her training on June 30, 2017.

Please note:

- The IMRP reserves the right to determine what, if any, length of time to waive by applying the Deficits in Required Training Time Waiver Policy to reduce a resident’s training time.
- Only the Program Director may request such a waiver of the ABIM on a trainee’s behalf.
- Trainees may submit requests (to their program director) only during the final training year; requests must be made prior to the January CCC/RPPC meeting.
- Requests must be submitted to the ABIM by February 15th.
- The ABIM reserves the right to approve or deny any request.
- Should the request for a waiver be approved, the resident must continue to demonstrate a high level of performance and competence throughout the remainder of the training time.
• A decision to decline a request for the application of the Deficit in Training Time Waiver policy, by the either the ABIM or IMRP’s CCC/RPPC, is final.
• Per the ABIM, the Deficits in Required Training Time Waiver Policy is not intended to be used to shorten training before the end of the academic year. That is, this policy cannot be invoked for residents scheduled to complete training on June 30th but who wish to have their program completion date changed to June 15th so as to start a new job or fellowship training.

PROCEDURE:

1) During the final year of training, an off-cycle resident may request to have the formal end date of their training program be reduced by up to 30 days through the application of the Deficit in Training Time Waiver Policy, by submitting a formal, written request via email to local-imrp@illinois.edu:
   a) Only written requests will be considered and must be submitted to the IMRP before the January CCC/RPPC meeting;
   b) The request should outline the reason for the request and providing a brief, self-assessment of their level of competence and readiness for independent practice.
2) The CCC/RPPC will review the request and other any documentation needed to determine if the application of the Deficit of Training Time Policy is merited. This includes ensuring that:
   a) All core rotations have or will be completed within the shortened time frame;
   b) Based on a review of formal evaluation (including the mid-year summative evaluation) and consensus of Committee members that the resident will have achieved required competence within the shortened time frame.
3) If the request is supported by the Committee:
   a) IMRP will forward their request/recommendation to the ABIM by February 15th;
   b) The resident will be advised in writing of this action within one week of the CCC/RPPC meeting;
   c) The resident will be updated in writing once the ABIM has made its determination.
4) If the request is not supported, the resident will be informed in writing.
5) A decision to decline a request for the application of the Deficit in Training Time Waiver Policy, by either the ABIM or IMRP’s RPPC/CCC, is final.