Limpkins

A few updates and answers to some questions forwarded by Tabi, Arjun and Alex.

**Visiting Electives**
As mentioned in my last update, I believe it is quite likely that there won’t be any visiting electives this year. This is the recommendation from the national group of UME Deans; that recommendation goes to the AFMC Subcommittee on Education; if they agree, then it gets sent to the AFMC Board, which is made up largely of the Deans from each of the medical schools in Canada. If they vote in favour, then that becomes the final decision. We’re expecting that decision in mid-June. While I can’t be 100% certain about that decision, I do expect that it will be in favour of not having visiting electives this year.

One of the questions that I’m told has been circulating is around students who are doing core rotations at other sites. Every year, there are students at many Canadian schools who have an arrangement with their Associate Dean to complete one or more of their core rotations at another school. This is not the same as a visiting elective. Any arrangements that are currently in place are going to be honoured at all schools (again, this has been agreed to by the national group of UME Deans).

**Attendance**
Another question that has been expressed is around the number of days that can be missed on each rotation without the need for make up time. Each rotation decides this independently (discussions around this take place at the clerkship committee) and will update their core doc if there are changes with the adjusted rotations.

**Shadowing**
Right before the pandemic hit, we had some extensive discussions about shadowing in clerkship. We had made the decision at the January 31, 2020 UMEC meeting there was agreement in principle that we could allow clerks to do some shadowing, with significant limitations (based on work hour rules and only for specific indications around career exploration). We then discussed the implementation of this at the February 25, 2020 Clerkship Committee; the plan was to work on editing the shadowing policy so that we could implement this in May, when insurance coverage changes could be in place. I suspect its not surprising that this was moved to a back burner when the pandemic hit. I will plan to work on this, but I can’t lie, its not at the top of my to-do list right now. Not that its not important, but there are an awful lot of other irons in the fire. I’ll hopefully have time to document everything and update the policy over the summer.

Practically, we’ve asked all of our clerkships and faculty to get all hands on deck to support core and elective clinical placements in the clerkship. I suspect that for most preceptors, more than this would be a big ask, particularly over the summer months (as we have a collision of the return to clerkship and usually some limitations on staff availability as people take vacation time).
In any event, more to come on this, but for now, the policy as written says no shadowing in clerkship.

**Resources**
We’ve been collecting and organizing web resources that are relevant to your return to clinical work. We are going to set up a new page on the MD Program website where all of these links can be found in one place. We’d like to set up a ‘one stop shop’ where you can find the information that you will need as you return. We’ll send you a link when it is up and running.

**Some Practical Thoughts**
Parking is free right now on site at the hospitals. I’m sure that this won’t last but for now, this is the case. If/when that changes, we’ll let you know, although I’m sure that AHS will make it very clear when this comes to an end.

There will be limits at most locations on what food services are available. I’d advise you to make sure that you bring your own food/drink to your clinical placements to ensure that you have some sustenance over the day or night.

AHS has assured us that for students in the hospitals, there is adequate PPE for students. We are working with the out of hospital clinics and offices to provide funding for PPE in those sites as well. For those few students who aren’t able to attend one of the two in person PPE sessions at the school on June 2/12, we are still working on a make-up session (this includes students who have moved to a UCLIC site).

As always, you will be asked to provide feedback on your clinical rotations; there is a question on that survey that asks about your perceived safety at your teaching site. Please use this tool to let us know if you have concerns about your access to PPE or any other concerns with COVID safety. The final version of the document that describes patient contact for clerks is being looked at by the clerkship committee.

Scrubs are available in the hospitals for medical students (again, our AHS contacts have assured us that they will be available for students, as has normally been the case). Rotations where scrubs are the norm will continue that way. You can also choose to wear scrubs in any clinical environment, although this isn’t required. The general advice if you are seeing patients is that you should wear clothes that are easily laundered and plan to change clothes either on site after your shift or as soon as you get home; in addition, you should plan to shower after your shift (again, can be on site or at home).

You should plan to show up 10-15 minutes early for any shifts in the hospitals. There will be screening at the door and/or on the wards and while it is really quick, there could be a line up. Each site is slightly different in the details (e.g. at RGH, I get a coloured sticker on my AHS ID every day; at FMC, I get a punch-card calendar that fits in my ID badge holder).

I think that’s it for now — more will come out through the course of the next week.

Have a good Sunday!
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