



PGME COVID -19 UPDATE

APRIL 17 2020

Good News! –Scrubs Have Arrived

PGME was notified that the shipment of scrubs has arrived at U of C. Julie McEwen and Karen Fedato are organizing a system to distribute over 700 pairs of scrubs. They have been in contact with your Program Administrators to arrange pick-up next week. A second shipment is still pending. Your programs will be notified when it arrives.

Certification Examinations

The Royal College circulated its decision to postpone the spring exams until the fall. Only the written examination will be delivered. For this year only, there will be no oral/applied examination. My understanding is that RCPS will be reaching out to individual candidates to determine the center at which the resident prefers to take the exam.

There are ongoing discussions about timing and format of the subspecialty fall examinations. RCPS has not made a final decision in this regard.

CFPC announced its decision to cancel the fall 2020 SOO component of the Certification Examination in Family Medicine and the oral component of the September 2020 Examination of Added Competence in Emergency Medicine. The Short-Answer Management Problem (SAMP) components of these examinations will be delivered as planned. Further details regarding this examination are still pending.

Household Transmission of Covid-19

Health care providers are understandably concerned about the possibility of transmission of Covid-19 to household contacts. This is a particular concern for those with partners/family members who are in a high-risk group. PGME has taken several steps to address this issue as follows:

- Work is underway with the Infectious Disease group at University of Calgary to develop an instructional video that speaks to precautions health care workers can take to keep themselves and household contacts safe. This important effort is led by Dr. Michael Parkins along with several residents in Infectious Disease. PGME is providing funding for this project and I am hopeful that it will be ready for circulation within the next week or so.
- Alternate housing accommodations are available for those who wish to access this option. Attached is a list of hotels that offer reduced rates for health care workers and also some Airbnb facilities.

I am looking into the possibility of securing partial funding for these accommodations. I don't have a final plan to share at this moment but will update as soon as I know whether this will be feasible.

Resident Redeployment

Resident redeployment continues and most assignments are confirmed for Block 12. Thank you to the Program Directors and volunteers for their efforts and cooperation in this regard. At this point, most residents are reassigned to a single block ICU rotation and then I have to deploy 7 – 8 trainees to MTU rotations to compensate for the residents redeployed to ICU. I want to reiterate that redeployment is a voluntary process and that each Program Director will discuss with residents before putting name forward to PGME. I then confirm the assignment before resident lists are sent on to the receiving program.

This is a fluid process and we are dependent on surge models and projections of patient volumes. So far, the expected surge has not arrived and this is good news for Alberta! I will continue to monitor the situation closely with my colleagues in Critical Care to determine anticipated need for Block 13. Just a reminder that the *DCMM Covid Physician Surge Document* is posted to the PGME website

Provisional Licensing

The process for provisional licensing of exam-eligible final year residents is underway. PGME is collecting the data that needs to be forwarded to CPSA to attest to successful completion of training. This issue was discussed with your Program Directors this morning at our biweekly PGME committee meeting. Any questions can be directed either to your programs or to Karen Fedato at PGME kfedato@ucalgary.ca

Wellness

A reminder to attend to wellness during these difficult days. As many of you know, Dr. Mannerfeldt is hosting regular Tuesday evening virtual wellness meetings with residents between 7 -8 pm.

For more information, please contact the wellness office:

T: 403-210-6525

residentwellness@ucalgary.ca

I will ask Crystal to circulate the Zoom link for the next meeting on Monday.

This Weekend

For those of you who are not on call this weekend the weather forecast is promising with temperatures as high as 13 degrees by Sunday. I hope everyone will take some time to rest or go for some "social-distanced" exercise outside.

As always, I will be checking emails over the weekend and responding to any urgent issues as they arise.

Stay safe!

Be well

Lisa Welikovitch
Associate Dean, PGME