February 1, 2022

Joint Consultative Committee

Resident Exam/Study Leave for Spring Certification Examinations 2022.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact the delivery of clinical care and academic activities for all Resident Physicians. Concerns have been raised regarding the spring certification examinations. As you are aware, the Resident Physician Agreement (13.01 -13.03 inclusive) provides for the following:

**Exam & Study Leave**

13.01 ....up to five (5) consecutive days off without loss of pay to write each Canadian qualifying and certifying examination component, which include those of the Medical Council of Canada, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The days off will be as follows:

a) Travel required – the day prior to outbound travel, the day of outbound travel, one (1) or two (2) days as required to attend the actual examination, and one (1) day for return travel, or
b) No travel required – the day prior to the examination, one (1) or two (2) days as required to attend the actual examination.

13.02 Subject to patient care considerations and at the request of the Resident Physician, a Resident Physician will not be scheduled for on-call duty in the period seventy-two (72) hours prior to the Exam Leave described in Article 13.01. In addition, Resident Physicians shall work only Standard Duty Hours (i.e., no more than twelve (12) hours per day) during this period.

13.03 Study Leave

a) Subject to patient care considerations and at the request of the Resident Physician, a Resident Physician will be granted up to five (5) non-consecutive days off during the eight (8) weeks preceding the Exam Leave described in Article 13.01. These non-consecutive days off will be standard or shift-based duty hours days. At the discretion of the Program Director, some of these days may be taken consecutively.

The logistical arrangements for upcoming certification examinations have been reorganized by the Colleges to adapt to the pandemic. The RCPSC certification examinations will be delivered locally in 17 hotel sites across Canada. In the event of a Covid exposure the RCPSC has the ability to convert to remote delivery within 24 hours. For CFPC, the SAMP can be taken at a designated Prometric center, or remotely via Prometric remote proctoring. The SOO component will be delivered virtually. These arrangements eliminate the need for travel and effectively reduce leave for the certification exams to the day prior to the exam and the day(s) of the exam itself.
In order to support Resident Physicians and minimize the risk of a Covid infection or exposure prior to these high-stakes examinations the following modification will be put in effect until July 1, 2022:

Each Resident Physician may request up to 5 consecutive calendar days prior to each component of the certification examination. No on-call or clinical responsibilities will be scheduled during these 5 days. This will include any weekend days (Saturday or Sunday) that fall within this 5-day period. This arrangement will allow Resident Physicians to self-isolate for up to (5) days prior to each component of the certification examinations.

Resident Physicians who have unused study days may request a maximum of 2 study days to be taken in advance of each component of the certification exams. These study days cannot be taken consecutively and cannot be scheduled immediately prior to the 5 consecutive calendar days preceding the examination.

The usual process for requesting study and exam leave continues to apply. Approval of the home program director is required for each leave and is subject to patient care requirements.