



## MEMORANDUM

TO: CNME-Recognized Residency Sponsors  
FROM: CNME Board of Directors  
RE: Temporary Emergency Policies Related to Approved Residency Sites to Address the COVID-19 Situation  
DATE: April 7, 2020

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### Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the CNME Board of Directors has adopted a set of temporary emergency policies pertaining to CNME-recognized residency sponsors and CNME-approved residency sites. These policies are designed to provide flexible means by which individual residents can be assured of a meaningful educational experience despite the disruptions caused by the epidemic so that they can successfully complete their 2019 – 2020 term of residency training. These policies will be reviewed periodically—and will be revised and/or added to as changing circumstances may necessitate—until such time as emergency policies are no longer needed.

The CNME understands that some individual residents may experience financial hardship due to being furloughed or transitioned to part-time, or possibly being laid-off due to clinic closures or insufficient patient volume. CNME-recognized sponsors are not responsible for ensuring continuation of salary during the time that the COVID-19 situation impacts residency training; however, the CNME urges residency sponsors to explore with off-site residencies ways in which financial hardship may be mitigated, whether through small business loans, unemployment benefits, or other means, and to maintain their resident employment arrangements for their onsite residencies if at all possible.

### Temporary Emergency Policies

The following are the temporary emergency CNME policies regarding residency training:

1. CNME-recognized residency sponsors must in partnership with approved off-site residencies develop a written educational plan that provides temporary accommodations for each resident to complete his/her 2019 – 2020 residency term in accordance with the guidance in this memorandum.
2. CNME-recognized residency sponsors must develop a written educational plan that provides temporary accommodations for each onsite/campus-based resident to complete his/her 2019 – 2020 residency term in accordance with the guidance in this memorandum.

3. The time period for which temporary accommodations for residents may remain in effect shall not exceed 12 weeks, unless the CNME authorizes an extension beyond 12 weeks.
4. CNME-recognized residency sponsors have discretion to extend the time period of a residency beyond the scheduled 2020 completion date, but this is not required by the CNME.
5. The written educational plan for residents may comprise any or all of the following activities, provided that the activities total, on average, at least 32 hours per week:
  - a. Participating in treating patients in clinical settings approved by the CNME-recognized residency sponsor other than the original residency setting;
  - b. Participating in treating patients via telemedicine;
  - c. Providing medical services on a volunteer basis in settings approved by the CNME-recognized residency sponsor;
  - d. Undertaking academic projects approved by the CNME-recognized residency sponsor related to ND program instruction;
  - e. Engaging in continuing education activities as defined under Standard 3.9;
  - f. Engaging in scholarly and research activities as defined under Standard 3.11;
  - g. Participating in a preceptorship approved by the CNME-recognized sponsor; and
  - h. Participating in other activities that the CNME-recognized sponsor documents as providing a rigorous post-doctoral educational experience consistent with the CNME residency requirements.

### **CNME-Recognized Residency Sponsor Reporting Requirements**

Each CNME-recognized residency sponsor shall submit a report to the CPNME as follows:

- By Friday, May 8, 2020, submission of a report (maximum of two pages) that summarizes the specific modifications the recognized sponsor has made or intends to make to the residency program, including timeframes, to address the COVID-19 situation. Along with the report, the recognized sponsor must provide at least two examples of the written educational plans it has developed for individual residents, including a plan pertaining to an onsite resident and a plan pertaining to an off-site resident.
- By Friday, July 31, 2020, submission of a report (maximum of five pages) summarizing in detail the modifications to the residency program that were implemented in response to the COVID-19 situation.

If a program has any questions or comments about the above policies, please contact CNME Executive Director, Dr. Daniel Seitz, at 413-528-8877 or by email at [danseitz@verizon.net](mailto:danseitz@verizon.net).