

## MEMORANDUM

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**To:** The Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada (FMRAC)  
Provincial and Territorial Ministries of Health  
Provincial and Territorial Medical Associations  
Royal College Specialty Committee Chairs  
National Specialty Societies  
Postgraduate Deans and Deans of Faculties of Medicine  
Postgraduate Managers  
Royal College committees (Assessment Committee, Accreditation Committee, Credentials Committee, Committee on Specialties)  
Resident Doctors of Canada (RDoC)  
Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec (FMRQ)  
Le Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ)  
The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)  
Medical Council of Canada (MCC)  
Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS)  
HealthCareCAN

**From:** Jason R. Frank, Director, Specialty Education, Strategy and Standards, Office of Specialty Education

**Subject:** Entry Route Change: Removal of Internal Medicine as an entry route to Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

**Date:** October 13, 2020

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Recognizing the importance of communications with our stakeholders and transparency in committee decision making, the Royal College is issuing this memo to announce that the request from the Specialty Committee in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology to remove Internal Medicine as an entry route into the discipline has been approved by the Committee on Specialties (COS) and subsequently, by the Director, Specialty Education, Strategy and Standards.

### Background

The COS' principal mandate is to oversee the optimal configuration of specialty medicine in Canada. In addition to making decisions regarding the recognition of new disciplines, and monitoring the overall health of existing disciplines, the COS is responsible for considering



changes to Royal College specialties, subspecialties, and Areas of Focused Competence (AFCs).

During its most recent meeting in April 2020, the COS was asked to consider a request from the Specialty Committee in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, to remove Internal Medicine as an entry route to training in the discipline. The COS was tasked with determining whether this represented a *minor* or *major* change, both of which are defined in the policy governing name change requests (attachment a). During their meeting, the COS agreed with the rationale outlined by the applicant that:

- A strong background in general pediatrics is necessary to complete training in their subspecialty, because it builds upon the competencies gained through residency in Pediatrics, rather than through Internal Medicine,
- The change is supported by the Specialty Committee in Internal Medicine, and
- That the entry from Internal Medicine has been unused for the past several years, with no PGY4 Pediatric Hematology/Oncology trainees with a background in Internal Medicine between 2014/15 and 2018/19.

Following discussion, during which the COS agreed that this was a minor change, the committee adopted the following motion:

*THAT, the Committee on Specialties consider the request from Pediatric Hematology/Oncology to remove Internal Medicine as an entry route into the discipline as minor in nature; with the Office of Specialty Education to conduct a public notification of the intent toward the change, with a final decision resting with the Director, Specialty Education, Strategy and Standards.*

### **Current Status**

As stipulated in the policy and in the motion passed by the COS, the Office of Specialty Education conducted a public notification of the intent toward the change, inviting feedback from stakeholders over a period of sixty days. The prevailing reaction was that:

- Pediatrics is essential to training a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist with a focused set of skills and knowledge to provide care for children and their families, including the management of multiple medical, psychological and social determinants of health that are specific to this patient population, and
- That entry from Internal Medicine does not equip a physician with the comprehensive knowledge base for optimal practice and care of patients and their families in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

**Next Steps**

The Royal College will implement the change in accordance with its internal processes, including communication with staff, the Specialty Committee in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, its committees and stakeholders.

If you have any questions or concerns, I invite you to get in touch with our office, via myself or Ms. Sarah Taber, Associate Director, Education Strategy and Accreditation, at [cos@royalcollege.ca](mailto:cos@royalcollege.ca).