

Understanding Arranged Student Capacities



To understand the concept of arranged student capacities, allow the food pictured above to represent a program's clinical affiliates. (Yes, it's a silly analogy but play along.) A comprehensive affiliate is like the complete meal on the far left, providing multiple dimensions of clinical education such as general imaging, nuclear cardiology and PET/CT. The plate of green beans in the middle represents a radiopharmacy rotation, offering limited hands-on experience and a relatively short rotation, while the bowl of peas and carrots is like a PET/CT affiliate that routinely performs oncologic and neurologic procedures.

Affiliates performing a limited variety or volume of procedures do not offer the breadth of nuclear medicine experiences students need to develop competence. Students should not be assigned to such facilities for an extended period of time since it would negatively impact their ability to meet all competencies required for graduation. The JRCNMT gives these affiliates an arranged student capacity - a concept introduced in the 1970's to ensure a program does not admit more students than its affiliates can adequately educate. Arranged student capacities do not contribute to a program's total clinical capacity, which is designated by the JRCNMT. Arranged capacities ensure that students have sufficient, supervised hands-on experiences in the clinical setting to foster competency across the full range of clinical experiences, even if the program abruptly loses an affiliate or encounters an unexpected reduction in student capacity at a comprehensive affiliate.

Reasons why an affiliate may be assigned an arranged student capacity:

The affiliate only offers education of a limited nature such as a radiopharmacy or a PET/CT facility. Such affiliates do not provide a broad nuclear medicine education and do not justify admission of additional students into the program.

OR

A cardiac or general nuclear medicine facility that has an annual procedure volume slightly below the minimum 1300 procedures/year required by the JRCNMT but the site received recognition because the program demonstrated in the application that the facility offers a unique experience, such as a different brand of camera, procedures not routinely performed at other affiliates, or an exceptional instructor that has demonstrated skill at remediating students having difficulties.