

FAQ on Pandemic Responses Issues

May 1, 2020

Will programs be permitted to temporarily exceed JRCNMT-approved student capacities at clinical affiliates due to cohort overlap?

Due to social distancing guidelines and reduced procedure numbers, the environment at clinical affiliates that reopen to students will not be the same as when the student capacity was set by the JRCNMT. With that in mind, the JRCNMT will consider approving modified clinical capacities on a case-by-case basis through December 31, 2020. A capacity modification should only be requested if it facilitates an on-time graduation for a specific student or group of students.

A program that believes it must exceed its approved clinical capacity at one or more affiliates must submit a detailed request to the JRCNMT that includes the items listed below. The request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the proposed implementation date.

- Explanation of how the proposal will facilitate an on-time graduation for students and why exceeding capacity at specific affiliates is necessary.
- Number of students requiring facilitation to achieve an on-time graduation and the expected date of their graduation.
- Names of the specific affiliates.
- Approved capacity plus the additional number of student(s) requested for each affiliate.
- If an additional student will only be assigned to a specific rotation area at an affiliate, such as PET/CT or nuclear cardiology, this should be specified.
- Specific time period in which capacity would be exceeded at each affiliate (i.e. Tuesday am only and Thursday all day from Aug 24, 2020 through Oct 15, 2020).
- Email from the AES at each affiliate acknowledging approval of the requested capacity change for the time period indicated.

Will the JRCNMT permit programs to have more than a 40-hour week for students to get them caught up?

The JRCNMT does not have a standard that limits a program to 40-hour per week assignments for students (didactic, clinic or didactic + clinic). Programs should follow the rules and guidelines provided by their institution and use caution to avoid overburdening students.

Can students complete competencies at clinics that are not recognized by the JRCNMT?

Clinical education cannot occur at affiliates that have not been approved by the JRCNMT. If a program needs to add an affiliate to accommodate clinical education, the standard affiliate application process must be utilized. The JRCNMT will work to expedite the reviews of these applications so programs receive a response within 3 weeks of application submission.

If a program has some but not all affiliates reopen, can the students assigned to the open clinics return to them while others wait?

This decision should be made by the program, following guidance from the academic institution. The program is encouraged to work toward delaying graduation for as few students as possible while striving for equity and fairness.

Will the JRCNMT revisit the program pass rate criteria in Standard D3.2 in light of the pandemic?

The certification exam data due in the Annual Report this summer is for students who graduated in 2017 – 2019. Since these students did not have their education or certification examination impacted by the pandemic, the JRCNMT plans to adhere to Standard D3.2 and Policy 3.110 *Procedure for Monitoring Certification Exam Pass Rate Deficiencies* this year. Later this year the JRCNMT will make a decision on what may be done in 2021 since the data collected then will be from graduates impacted by the pandemic.