

A P P E N D I X

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**Training requirements and  
initial residency period for  
selected residency programs**

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## Training requirements and initial residency period for selected residency programs

In Chapter 10 we discuss Medicare's direct graduate medical education payments made to hospitals for residency training. The chapter focuses on the treatment of the initial residency period in Medicare's direct graduate medical education (GME) payments. The initial residency period is the minimum period of training required in a specialty to become eligible for board certification in that specialty, up to a maximum of five years. Hospitals receive full direct GME payments for residents training within the initial residency period and half this amount for residents training past the initial residency period.

The tables in this appendix provide information on the training periods required by different specialties and the length of the initial residency period used for determining Medicare's direct GME payments. They also indicate whether payments might be limited because of how the initial residency period is determined for residents. An explanation of which residents are affected by these rules is also provided, as are data on the number of residents training in each specialty in 1999 and 1993, which helps to show how the number of residents being trained in each specialty has changed over time.

Table C-1 shows data on the different allopathic specialties Medicare supports. The table divides specialty programs into three groups. The specialties in the first group have no prerequisites; therefore, residents that enter these specialties generally are fully supported throughout the training period, unless they switch specialties or train longer than the minimum period required. The second group identifies specialties that have prerequisites requiring residents to receive preliminary training in another specialty before entering. Residents in many of these specialties train beyond the initial residency period, and therefore hospitals receive lower Medicare payments for part of the training period. The third group lists specialties that offer a mix of programs that residents enter either immediately after medical school or after a prerequisite year (or years) of training in another specialty. Residents that enter these programs after taking prerequisite training in another specialty potentially may train beyond the initial residency period.

Table C-2 lists similar information for the combined residency training programs which allow residents to receive certification in two specialties. The length

of training in these programs is less than if the two specialties are pursued separately, but one or two years longer than the longest of the individual specialties being pursued. Residents cannot receive certification in a specialty until the combined program is completed. The initial residency period for residents training in combined programs is determined based on the specialty with the longest training period. If both specialties are considered primary care (family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, preventive medicine, or geriatrics), one year is added to the initial residency period.

Table C-3 lists many of the allopathic subspecialty training programs offered. Subspecialty programs are entered after completing training in a specific specialty and therefore take place after the initial residency period has been completed. Hospitals therefore receive lower direct GME payments for subspecialty residents although a two year exemption is provided for geriatrics and preventive medicine. This table only includes allopathic subspecialties with the highest number of residents.

**TABLE  
C-1**

**Training period and initial residency period for selected allopathic residencies**

Specialty	Number of residents		Number of years of training required for board certification	Years of training fully supported by Medicare*	Payments limited by initial residency period?*	Which residents train beyond initial residency period?
	1993	1999				
<b>Specialties with no prerequisites</b>						
Family practice	7,976	10,533	3	3	no	None
Internal medicine	20,603	21,237	3	3	no	None
Obstetrics and gynecology	5,074	4,710	4	4	no	None
Pediatrics	7,460	7,715	3	3	no	None
Preventive medicine	441	426	3	3	no	None
General surgery	8,243	7,748	5	5	no	None
Transitional year	1,542	1,217	n/a	1	no	Does not lead to certification, often used to fulfill preliminary year requirement in a specialty.
<b>Specialties with prerequisites</b>						
Allergy and immunology	316	209	5	3	yes	Requires completion of internal medicine or pediatrics residency before entering, then two years of training in allergy and immunology; similar to subspecialty fields.
Child and adolescent psychiatry	731	669	5	4	yes	Requires a general training year the first year, then two years of training in general psychiatry followed by two years of training in a child psychiatry program. Coverage in final two years depends on the specialty entered in the general training year.
Colon and rectal surgery	57	58	6	5	yes	Requires completion of a general surgery residency before entering program; therefore, residents in last year of training will not be in the initial residency period.
Dermatology	912	870	4	4	some	Residents who take preliminary year in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Child neurology	150	144	5	5	no	Changes in BBRA now allow all residents to be covered.
Nuclear medicine	204	132	3	3	no	None
Ophthalmology	1,674	1,369	4	4	some	Residents who take preliminary year in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.

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C-1**

**Training period and initial residency period for selected allopathic residencies**

Specialty	Number of residents		Number of years of training required for board certification	Years of training fully supported by Medicare*	Payments limited by initial residency period?*	Which residents train beyond initial residency period?
	1993	1999				
<b>Specialties that often have prerequisites but also offer full training in some programs—</b>						
Residents who enter the specific specialty program their first year out of medical school generally are fully supported throughout their training.						
Anesthesiology	5,696	3,837	4	4	some	Residents who take preliminary year in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Emergency medicine	2,434	3,490	3 or 4	3	some	Residents who enter program that starts in their second year of residency training and residents in four-year programs will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Medical genetics	0	65	4	4	some	Residents entering two-year programs after taking two preliminary years of training in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Neurological surgery	808	805	6	5	yes	Last year of training will not be in initial residency period.
Neurology	1,536	1,344	4	4	some	Residents who start programs in second year will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Orthopedic surgery	3,029	2,744	5	5	no	None
Otolaryngology	1,192	1,113	5	5	no	None
Pathology (anatomic and clinical)	2,713	2,264	4 or 5	4	yes	Residents who take a credentialing year in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics, will not be in initial residency period in last year of training if they enter a three-year anatomic or clinical program or the last two years if they enter a four-year combined anatomic and clinical program.
Physical medicine and rehabilitation	1,082	1,085	4	4	some	Residents who start with a year of training in family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.

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C-1**

**Training period and initial residency period for selected allopathic residencies**

Specialty	Number of residents		Number of years of training required for board certification	Years of training fully supported by Medicare*	Payments limited by initial residency period?*	Which residents train beyond initial residency period?
	1993	1999				
Plastic surgery	464	472	5 or 6	5	some	Residents entering programs after completing training in another surgical specialty will not be in initial residency period. Those entering a three-year program after three years of general surgery training will not be in initial residency period in final year of training. Those entering a two-year program after three years of general surgery will be within initial residency period.
Psychiatry	5,044	4,469	4	4	some	Residents who enter a three-year program and take their prerequisite year in family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency in final year of training.
Diagnostic radiology	4,236	3,591	5	4	some	Residents who enter program in second year and take preliminary year in emergency medicine, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last two years of training. Residents who do preliminary year in obstetrics and gynecology or neurology will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Radiation oncology	539	440	5	4	some	Residents who enter program in second year and take their preliminary year in family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics will not be in initial residency period in last two years of training. Residents who take their preliminary year in obstetrics and gynecology or neurology will not be in initial residency period in last year of training.
Thoracic surgery	341	306	7	5	yes	Last two years of training are beyond initial residency period.
Urology	1,114	1,043	5	5	some	Residents in programs who pursue a training track that requires two years of general surgery, six months of clinical research, and three and a half years of urology will not be fully counted in last year of training.

\*Full time residents training within the initial residency period are counted as 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE), residents training past this period are counted as 0.5 FTE.

Sources: American Medical Association, graduate medical education directory 2000–2001; Journal of the American Medical Association, September 7, 1994 and September 6, 2000; Health Care Financing Administration, Federal Register, August 30, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 170, p. 46208–46211.

**TABLE  
C-2**

**Training period and initial residency period for combined residency programs**

Combined Programs	Number of residents		Number of years of training required for board certification	Years of training fully supported by Medicare*	Payments limited by initial residency period?*	Which residents train beyond initial residency period?
	1993	1999				
Internal medicine / emergency medicine	34	83	5	3	yes	Residents in their last two years of training.
Internal medicine / family practice	0	24	4	4	no	None
Internal medicine / neurology	0	25	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Internal medicine / pediatrics	738	1,646	4	4	no	None
Internal medicine / physical medicine and rehabilitation	23	38	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Internal medicine / preventive medicine	0	14	4	4	no	None
Internal medicine / psychiatry	35	136	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Neurology / diagnostic radiology / neuroradiology	0	6	7	5	yes	Residents in their last two years of training.
Neurology / physical medicine and rehabilitation	0	1	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Pediatrics / emergency medicine	11	28	5	3	yes	Residents in their last two years of training.
Pediatrics / medical genetics	0	9	5	3	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Pediatrics / physical medicine and rehabilitation	25	17	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Pediatrics / psychiatry / child and adolescent psychiatry	35	75	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Psychiatry / family practice	0	52	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.
Psychiatry / neurology	0	14	5	4	yes	Residents in their last year of training.

\*Full time residents training within the initial residency period are counted as 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE), residents training past this period are counted as 0.5 FTE.

Sources: American Medical Association, graduate medical education directory 2000–2001; Journal of the American Medical Association, September 7, 1994 and September 6, 2000; Health Care Financing Administration, Federal Register, August 30, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 170, p. 46208–46211.

**TABLE  
C-3**

**Training period for selected allopathic subspecialty residency programs**

Selected subspecialty programs	Number of residents		Number of years of training required for board certification	Years of subspecialty training fully supported by Medicare*	Payments limited by initial residency period?*	Which residents train beyond initial residency period?
	1993	1999				
Anesthesiology:						
Critical care medicine	49	59	1	0	yes	All
Pain management	32	215	1	0	yes	All
Pediatric anesthesiology	0	63	1	0	yes	All
Family practice:						
Geriatric medicine	17	42	1	2	no	None
Internal medicine:						
Cardiovascular disease	2,440	2,012	3	0	yes	All
Critical care medicine	327	126	1 or 2	0	yes	All
Endocrinology	397	394	2	0	yes	All
Gastroenterology	1,027	957	3	0	yes	All
Geriatric medicine	208	326	1	2	no	None
Hematology	568	87	2	0	yes	All
Hematology and oncology	0	818	3	0	yes	All
Infectious disease	687	624	2	0	yes	All
Nephrology	628	678	2	0	yes	All
Oncology	647	228	2	0	yes	All
Pulmonary disease	948	145	2	0	yes	All
Pulmonary disease and critical care medicine	0	886	3	0	yes	All
Rheumatology	400	284	2	0	yes	All
Neurology						
Clinical neurophysiology	0	149	1	0	yes	All
Orthopedic surgery:						
Hand surgery	62	80	1	0	yes	All
Pediatric orthopedics	57	21	1	0	yes	All
Sports medicine	71	82	1	0	yes	All
Pathology:						
Cytopathology	55	90	1	0	yes	All
Forensic pathology	39	50	1	0	yes	All
Hematology	37	71	1	0	yes	All
Neuropathology	51	42	2	0	yes	All
Selective pathology	58	37	1	0	yes	All
Pediatrics:						
Cardiology	254	221	3	0	yes	All
Critical care	184	228	3	0	yes	All
Endocrinology	105	104	3	0	yes	All
Hematology and oncology	208	246	3	0	yes	All
Neonatal-perinatal	490	422	3	0	yes	All
Nephrology	73	69	3	0	yes	All
Pulmonology	99	97	3	0	yes	All
Psychiatry:						
Addiction psychiatry	0	46	1	0	yes	All
Geriatric	0	98	1	2	no	None
Radiology:						
Neuroradiology	180	198	1	0	yes	All
Pediatric radiology	61	42	1	0	yes	All
Vascular and interventional radiology	31	185	1	0	yes	All
Surgery:						
Critical care	40	105	1	0	yes	All
Pediatric surgery	45	49	2	0	yes	All
Vascular	98	145	1	0	yes	All

Note: Subspecialty programs are entered after completing training in a specific specialty.

\*Full time residents training within the initial residency period are counted as 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE), residents training past this period are counted as 0.5 FTE.

Sources: American Medical Association, graduate medical education directory 2000-2001; Journal of the American Medical Association, September 7, 1994 and September 6, 2000; Health Care Financing Administration, Federal Register, August 30, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 170, p. 46208-46211.