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Palliative Care Association of Grenada

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Weekly Newsletter

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Post-Graduate Training in Hospice & Palliative Medicine

Hospice and Palliative Medicine (H&PM) is a recently recognized subspecialty in the United States and Canada. Both the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) offer several training pathways with multiple entry routes. The majority of these pathways are comprised of 1 or 2-year programs that qualify residents for board certification. If you're interested in pursuing training in H&PM look no further! In this newsletter we will highlight the options that are available in the US and Canada.

How can I pursue training in H&PM?

As an accredited subspecialty there are no direct-entry options for H&PM following medical school, however, there are several residency programs that allow you to qualify for a fellowship or additional training year in palliative medicine. In the US, medical students may choose one of the following 10 programs: family medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, anesthesiology, internal medicine, obstetrics & gynecology, physical medicine & rehabilitation, psychiatry, neurology, and surgery. Following completion of the primary residency program, you may apply to any one of the 1-year fellowship programs in palliative medicine. Similarly in Canada, students may choose from the following specialties: family medicine, internal medicine, anesthesiology, neurology, and pediatrics, however, entry from other Royal College Specialties is also possible with additional training requirements (see Figure 1).

What does a H&PM Fellowship entail?

Palliative medicine is a comprehensive subspecialty with an emphasis on improving the quality of life for patients with

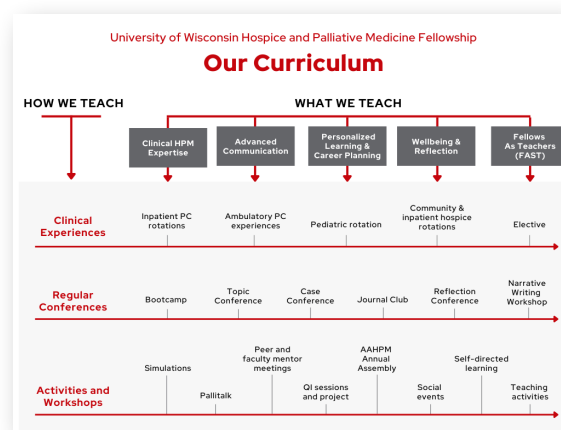


Figure 2: Sample curriculum for a 1-year fellowship in palliative medicine (medicine.wisc.edu)

serious life-limiting illnesses. During your time in a H&PM fellowship you can expect plenty of collaboration with an interdisciplinary healthcare team to discuss your patients' treatment goals and advocate on their behalf regarding their needs. You will also be exposed to different settings in which palliative care is provided, such as patients' homes, hospice centers, hospitals, and long-term care facilities (see Figure 2). Gaining this broad exposure will allow you to determine the trajectory of your career as a future palliative care physician. Many H&PM fellowships also provide opportunities for physicians to conduct research and teaching and thus create a path for those interested in academic medicine.

Where can I find information on H&PM Fellowships?

For opportunities in the United States, you can visit the AMA Residency & Fellowship Database (FREIDA) and view over 130 H&PM fellowships that are currently offered. This database is also a good place to gather information on other residency/fellowship programs. (<https://freida.ama-assn.org/>)

For opportunities in Canada, you can visit the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) to look at either the 2-year subspecialty (MSM match) or 1-year of additional training pathways (FM/ES match). You can even view specific details of each program such as their application requirements, learning objectives, curriculum, and rotation blocks. (<https://www.carms.ca/>)

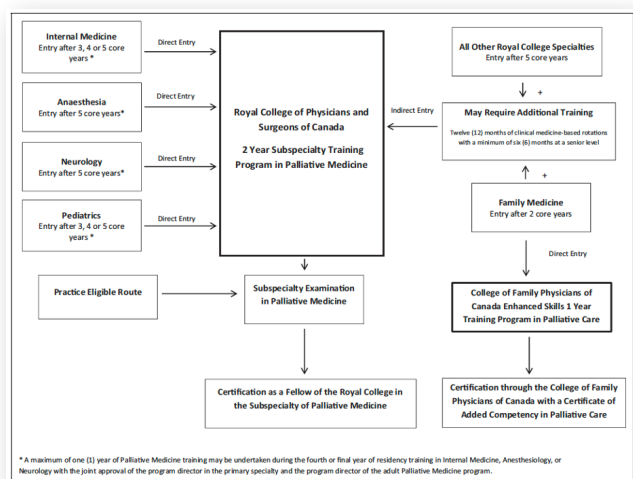


Figure 1: Canadian training pathways in palliative medicine (Pilkey et al. 2017)

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