INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide program directors and surveyors with an interpretation of the general standards of accreditation as they relate to the accreditation of programs in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. This document should be read in conjunction with the General Standards of Accreditation, the Objectives of Training and the Specialty Training Requirements in Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

STANDARD B1: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

There must be an appropriate administrative structure for each residency program.

Please refer to Standard B1 in the General Standards of Accreditation for the interpretation of this standard. The program director must have Royal College certification in Public Health and Preventive Medicine or equivalent CMQ certification.

The program director or faculty designate must attend at least one Specialty Committee in PH&PM meeting annually, in person or by teleconference.

STANDARD B2: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

There must be a clearly worded statement outlining the goals of the residency program and the educational objectives of the residents.

The general goals and objectives for Public Health and Preventive Medicine are outlined in the Objectives of Training and the Specialty Training Requirements in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Based upon these general objectives, each program must develop rotation specific objectives suitable for that particular program, as noted in Standard B2 of the General Standards of Accreditation.

STANDARD B3: STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PROGRAM

There must be an organized program of rotations and other educational experiences, both mandatory and elective, designed to provide each resident with the opportunity to fulfil the educational requirements and achieve competence in the specialty or subspecialty.
The structure and organization of each accredited program in Public Health and Preventive Medicine must be consistent with the specialty training requirements as outlined in the Objectives of Training and the Specialty Training Requirements in Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Residents must be provided with increasing individual professional responsibility, under appropriate supervision, according to their level of training, ability, and experience, to the fullest extent compatible with the resident’s abilities and the legal regulations governing the health agencies in which training occurs.

STANDARD B4: RESOURCES

There must be sufficient resources including teaching faculty, the number and variety of patients, physical and technical resources, as well as the supporting facilities and services necessary to provide the opportunity for all residents in the program to achieve the educational objectives and receive full training as defined by the Royal College or CFPC specialty training requirements.

The unit of practice for a Public Health and Preventive Medicine specialist is primarily population based. This standard is interpreted to mean that the resident must interact with a variety of populations reflecting urban, rural, gender, multicultural and other diversity.

In those cases where a university has sufficient resources to provide most of the training in Public Health and Preventive Medicine but lacks one or more essential elements, the program may still be accredited provided that formal arrangements have been made to send residents to another accredited residency program for periods of appropriate prescribed training.

Learning environments must include experiences that facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and attitudes relating to aspects of age, gender, culture, and ethnicity appropriate to Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

1. Teaching Faculty

The resources required for the basic clinical training year must be based in a sponsoring faculty of medicine and its affiliated hospitals.

The university centre must be engaged in a program of research in Public Health and Preventive Medicine or its basic sciences, and be capable of supervising candidates in research at a level appropriate for a graduate degree. A satisfactory level of research and scholarly activity must be maintained among the faculty identified with the program.

Each participating agency or institution must demonstrate the ability to provide a sufficient number of qualified teaching staff to supervise the resident at a level acceptable to both the program director and to the Royal College. The field supervisor should be a physician qualified in public health and preventive medicine (preferably with the Royal College certification in Public Health and Preventive Medicine).
2. Number and Variety of Experiences

It is essential that a broad range of community health activities be experienced, covering all the major applications of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Normally this will require the participation of several different agencies, but in some cases a single broadly-based agency may suffice.

STANDARD B5: CLINICAL, ACADEMIC AND SCHOLARLY CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM

The clinical, academic and scholarly content of the program must be appropriate for university postgraduate education and adequately prepare residents to fulfil all of the CanMEDS/CanMEDS-FM Roles of the specialist. The quality of scholarship in the program will, in part, be demonstrated by a spirit of enquiry during clinical discussions, at the bedside, in clinics or in the community, and in seminars, rounds, and conferences. Scholarship implies an in-depth understanding of basic mechanisms of normal and abnormal states and the application of current knowledge to practice.

1. Medical Expert

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program will involve a combination of academic, clinical, and field experiences, to ensure that residents develop a broad range of competence in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. The academic component may entail the granting of an academic degree, such as Masters of Science (M.Sc.) Masters of Health Science (M.H.Sc.), or Masters of Public Health (M.P.H.). The program should be flexible enough within the guidelines to suit the career plans of the residents. In particular, it is desirable that the program provides candidates the opportunity to develop special expertise in a specific area of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

The program must ensure that residents acquire the necessary information gathering, diagnostic and therapeutic skills for ethical and effective interventions at the individual, group, organization and population levels. Residents must also be provided with opportunities to develop effective consultative skills with respect to assessment and interventions at the individual, group and population levels.

2. Communicator

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program must ensure that residents learn effective communication skills for interacting with agencies, communities, individuals and their families, media, colleagues, co-workers from other disciplines, and students. Residents should participate in conference presentations, clinical and scientific reports and patient, public or community education. Clearly defined educational objectives for teaching these skills and mechanisms of formal assessment must be in place.
3. Collaborator

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program **must** provide the resident with opportunities to learn the techniques and practise the skills required to work collaboratively in an interprofessional and interdisciplinary team and with other partners, including community partners and populations served.

4. Manager

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program **must** provide residents with opportunities to gain an understanding of the principles and practice of management and administration in the contexts of clinical practice, health service agency, professional organizations and government. The program **must** provide the opportunity to practice various styles and techniques of leadership.

5. Health Advocate

The General Standards of Accreditation apply to this section.

6. Scholar

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program **must** teach critical appraisal skills, provide an environment that encourages resident engagement in research and give residents opportunities to develop and practice teaching skills.

7. Professional

In addition to the General Standards of Accreditation, the following requirements apply:

The program **must** provide teaching in medical and public health ethics and nurture the qualities of integrity, honesty and compassion. The program **must** support residents in developing the habit of continual evaluation of their abilities, knowledge and skills, and provide and atmosphere wherein they feel safe to seek advice and assistance.
STANDARD B6: ASSESSMENT OF RESIDENT PERFORMANCE

There must be mechanisms in place to ensure the systematic collection and interpretation of assessment data on each resident enrolled in the program.

Please refer to Standard B6 in the General Standards of Accreditation for the interpretation of this standard.

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