

**2018**

**VERSION 1.0**

**EDITORIAL REVISION MAY 2019**

*These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1, 2018.*

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Royal College certification in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology, or enrolment in a Royal College-accredited residency program in these areas (see requirements for these qualifications). All candidates must be certified in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology in order to be eligible to write the Royal College examination in Forensic Pathology.

## **TRANSITION TO DISCIPLINE (TTD)**

*The focus of this stage is on the orientation of new trainees to the roles within the interprofessional team, and institutional policies and regulations related to practising Forensic Pathology, including health and safety policies as well as legal and regulatory frameworks. During this stage, residents will be assessed on their autopsy skills, specifically: performing pre-autopsy assessments, demonstrating procedural abilities, and writing autopsy reports.*

### **Required training experiences (TTD stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Autopsy suite
2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Formal teaching in
    - 2.1.1. Health and safety with respect to forensic pathology (e.g., post-mortem room)
    - 2.1.2. Privacy and confidentiality in the medico-legal context
  - 2.2. Orientation to
    - 2.2.1. Autopsy suite policies and procedures
    - 2.2.2. The legal and regulatory framework of the program's jurisdiction
    - 2.2.3. Hospital and/or institutional policies and procedures
    - 2.2.4. The members of the interprofessional team and their roles
    - 2.2.5. Competency-based education in Forensic Pathology

## **FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE (F)**

*The focus of this stage is to develop the skills required for forensic pathology investigations under clinical supervision, including the appropriate stewardship of time and resources. For routine cases, trainees are required to review and interpret information from death scenes, as well as perform forensic pathology examinations, including forensic autopsies and select dissections. They will use the information gathered to formulate opinions and report on the findings for routine death investigations. Trainees gain additional experience providing assistance in more complex pediatric cases or those considered to be of a suspicious nature.*

### **Required training experiences (Foundations stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Remote review of death scene investigation, using paperwork, images, and other documentation
  - 1.2. Autopsy suite
2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Formal instruction in
    - 2.1.1. Principles of death scene interpretation
    - 2.1.2. Death investigation systems in Canada
    - 2.1.3. Cultural and religious accommodations relevant to forensic pathology
    - 2.1.4. Ethical issues, policies, and laws associated with organ retention
    - 2.1.5. Principles of quality assurance, and risk management strategies

### **Recommended training experiences (Foundations stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences
  - 3.1. Death scene attendance
4. Other training experiences
  - 4.1. Formal instruction in
    - 4.1.1. Social geography and epidemiology of the local jurisdiction
  - 4.2. Observation of expert witness role in court
  - 4.3. Observation of case conferences

## CORE OF DISCIPLINE (C)

*The focus of this stage is to demonstrate the core skills of a Forensic Pathologist, not only demonstrating procedural and interpretive skills required for complex cases, dissections, and examinations, but also taking on more responsibility for safety, quality assurance, and teaching and supervising junior colleagues. Residents build on the skills of the previous stage to provide case management of a death scene, manage a larger case load, and participate in organ and tissue donation decisions.*

### Required training experiences (Core stage):

1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Death scene attendance
  - 1.2. Autopsy suite
  - 1.3. After-hours coverage for forensic pathology service
  
2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Formal instruction in
    - 2.1.1. Pathophysiology of death, including post-mortem changes
    - 2.1.2. Mechanisms of injury and/or death
      - 2.1.2.1. Blunt force injuries
      - 2.1.2.2. Sharp force injuries
      - 2.1.2.3. Transportation injuries
      - 2.1.2.4. Asphyxia
      - 2.1.2.5. Firearm injuries
      - 2.1.2.6. Hostile environment deaths
      - 2.1.2.7. Toxicological deaths
      - 2.1.2.8. Sudden natural deaths, including maternal deaths and complications of medical therapy
      - 2.1.2.9. Pediatric deaths, including forensic pathology issues associated with neonatal deaths
      - 2.1.2.10. Child maltreatment, elder abuse and neglect
      - 2.1.2.11. Deaths in custody
      - 2.1.2.12. Sexual assault-related trauma
      - 2.1.2.13. Explosion-related trauma
    - 2.1.3. Forensic neuropathology
    - 2.1.4. Ancillary testing other than toxicology (e.g., biochemistry, microbiology)
    - 2.1.5. Principles of death certification and causation
    - 2.1.6. Principles of being an expert witness
    - 2.1.7. Principles of managing multiple victim fatalities
  - 2.2. Observership in forensic science disciplines, which may include anthropology, biology, chemistry, odontology, toxicology, entomology, blood pattern analysis, firearm and tool mark examination, and fingerprint analysis

**Recommended training experiences (Core stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences
  - 3.1. Coroner/medical examiner/death investigator shadowing
  - 3.2. Real or mock trial participation
  - 3.3. Case conferences/meetings participation
  - 3.4. Court preparation with lawyers
  - 3.5. Defense and/or civil consultations
  - 3.6. Living victim of assault consultations
  - 3.7. Mass incident exercise or review
  
4. Other training experiences
  - 4.1. Observership in forensic photography
  - 4.2. Attendance at a Forensic Pathology scientific meeting

**TRANSITION TO PRACTICE (TTP)**

*The focus of this stage is to demonstrate the consolidation of skills required to perform death investigations for any case while managing a full forensic pathology caseload in addition to administering and managing all aspects of a forensic pathology practice. Trainees are expected to demonstrate a contribution to their field as professionals, including participating in consultations for the criminal and civil justice system and leading initiatives to enhance Forensic Pathology.*

**Required training experiences (TTP stage):**

1. Clinical training experiences
  - 1.1. Triage and scheduling of forensic pathology service activities
  - 1.2. Death scene attendance
  - 1.3. Autopsy suite
  - 1.4. After-hours coverage of forensic pathology service
  
2. Other training experiences
  - 2.1. Formal teaching in relevant sections of the Criminal Code of Canada
  - 2.2. Real or mock trial participation

**Recommended training experiences (TTP stage):**

3. Clinical training experiences
  - 3.1. Performance of an autopsy observed by an external reviewer

4. Other training experiences

- 4.1. Formal teaching in legal and regulatory framework for jurisdiction of expected Canadian practice

## **MODEL DURATION OF TRAINING**

Progress in training occurs through demonstration of competence and advancement through the stages of the Competence Continuum. There is no mandated period of training; historically, training in Forensic Pathology has required one year. Individual duration of training may be influenced by many factors, which may include but are not limited to the student's singular progression through the stages, the availability of teaching and learning resources and/or differences in program implementation. Duration of training for any one individual is therefore at the discretion of the Faculty of Medicine, the Competence Committee, and the program director.

For planning purposes, the stages of the Competence Continuum in Forensic Pathology are generally no longer than six weeks for Transition to Discipline, three months for Foundations of Discipline, seven months for Core of Discipline, and two months for Transition to Practice.

## **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Royal College certification in Forensic Pathology requires all of the following:

1. Royal College certification in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology;
2. Successful completion of the Royal College examination in Forensic Pathology; and
3. Successful completion of the Forensic Pathology Portfolio.

This document is to be reviewed by the Specialty Committee in Forensic Pathology by December 31, 2020.

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