



Standards of Accreditation for Area of Focused Competence Programs in Neuromuscular Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

The *Standards of Accreditation for Area of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs in Neuromuscular Medicine* are a national set of standards maintained by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the evaluation and accreditation of Neuromuscular Medicine AFC programs. The standards aim to provide an interpretation of the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* as they relate to the accreditation of AFC programs in Neuromuscular Medicine, and to ensure these programs adequately prepare AFC trainees to meet the health care needs of their patient population(s) upon completion of training.

The standards include requirements applicable to AFC programs and learning sites and have been written in alignment with the standards organization framework used in the general standards that aims to provide clarity of expectations, while maintaining flexibility for innovation.

These standards are intended to be read in conjunction with the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*, as well as the discipline-specific documents for Neuromuscular Medicine. In instances where the indicators reflected in the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* have been modified within this document to reflect a discipline-specific expectation, the indicator as reflected in this document takes precedence.

STANDARDS

DOMAIN: PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The *Program Organization* domain includes standards focused on the structural and functional aspects of the AFC program, which support and provide structure to meet the general and discipline-specific standards of accreditation for AFC programs.

STANDARD 1: There is an appropriate organizational structure, with leadership and administrative personnel to support the AFC program, teachers, and trainees effectively.

Refer to Standard 1 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 1.2: There is an effective and functional AFC program committee to support the AFC program director in planning, organizing, evaluating, and advancing the AFC program.

| Requirement(s) | Indicator(s) |
|--|--|
| 1.2.1: The AFC program committee is composed of appropriate key AFC program stakeholders. | 1.2.1.4: The AFC program committee includes at least one representative from each of Neurology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with formal training or expertise in neuromuscular medicine. 1.2.1.5: The AFC program committee includes at least one member with formal training or expertise in pediatric neuromuscular medicine (e.g., pediatric neurology training) and one with formal training or expertise in adult neuromuscular medicine (e.g., adult neurology or physical medicine and rehabilitation training). |

DOMAIN: EDUCATION PROGRAM

The *Education Program* domain includes standards focused on the planning, design, and delivery of the AFC program, with the overarching outcome to ensure that the AFC program prepares trainees to be competent for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 2: Trainees are prepared for independent practice in the AFC discipline.

Refer to Standard 2 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 2.1: The AFC program is designed to facilitate trainees' attainment of the required competencies.

| Requirement(s) | Indicator(s) |
|---|--|
| 2.1.1: The AFC program's design and delivery is based on the standards of training for the AFC discipline. | 2.1.1.6: The educational experiences include participation in <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inpatient neuromuscular medicine• outpatient neuromuscular medicine• pathology rounds and academic rounds related to neuromuscular medicine• observation and interpretation of neuroelectrophysiological studies |

DOMAIN: RESOURCES

The *Resources* domain includes standards focused on ensuring that the AFC program's clinical, physical, technical, financial, and human resources are sufficient for the delivery of the education program and, ultimately, to prepare trainees for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 3: The delivery and administration of the AFC program are supported by appropriate resources.

Refer to Standard 3 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 3.1: The AFC program has the clinical, physical, technical, and financial resources to provide all trainees with the educational experiences needed to acquire all competencies.

| Requirement(s) | Indicator(s) |
|--|---|
| 3.1.1: The patient population is adequate to ensure that trainees attain required competencies. | 3.1.1.1 [Modified]: The AFC program provides access to the volume and diversity of patients appropriate to the AFC discipline for all trainees. The patient population represents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pediatric and adult patients with the full spectrum of neuromuscular disorders, including disorders of the motor neuron, nerve root, peripheral nerve, neuromuscular junction, and muscle• patients in inpatient and outpatient settings |
| 3.1.2: Clinical and consultative services and facilities are effectively organized and adequate to ensure that trainees attain the required competencies. | 3.1.2.5: The AFC program has access to an inpatient service and outpatient clinics that provide experiences in the diagnosis and treatment of neuromuscular disorders in adult and pediatric populations. 3.1.2.6: The AFC program has access to a neuroelectrophysiological testing service for the observation and interpretation of neuroelectrophysiological studies. 3.1.2.7: The AFC program has access to rehabilitative services, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology. 3.1.2.8: The AFC program has access to neuromuscular medicine interdisciplinary team meetings to allow for trainee participation in the collaborative care of patients. |
| 3.1.4: There is appropriate liaison with other programs and teaching services to ensure that trainees experience the breadth of the discipline. | 3.1.4.2: The AFC program liaises with the following consultative services: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pathology• medical imaging• cardiology• respirology• orthopedics• critical care 3.1.4.3: The university sponsors an accredited program in Neurology or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. |

Element 3.2: The AFC program has the appropriate human resources to provide all trainees with the required educational experiences.

| Requirement(s) | Indicator(s) |
|---|---|
| 3.2.1: Teachers appropriately implement the curriculum, supervise and assess trainees, contribute to the program, and role model effective practice. | 3.2.1.4: The AFC director has Royal College certification in Neurology or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, or equivalent, and clinical expertise in neuromuscular medicine, with at least 50 percent of their current practice focused in neuromuscular medicine. 3.2.1.5 [Exemplary]: <i>The teachers in the AFC program are Neuromuscular Medicine diplomates of the Royal College.</i> |

DOMAIN: LEARNERS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

The *Learners, Teachers, and Administrative Personnel* domain includes standards focused on safety, wellness, and support for learners and teachers.

STANDARD 4: Safety and wellness are promoted throughout the learning environment.

Refer to Standard 4 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 5: Trainees are treated fairly throughout their progression through the AFC program.

Refer to Standard 5 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 6: Teachers deliver and support all aspects of the AFC program effectively.

Refer to Standard 6 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

DOMAIN: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The *Continuous Improvement* domain includes standards focused on ensuring a systematic approach to the evaluation and improvement of the AFC program.

STANDARD 7: There is continuous improvement of the educational experiences to improve the AFC program and ensure trainees are prepared for independent practice in the discipline.

Refer to Standard 7 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

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