

# Standards of Accreditation for Area of Focused Competence Programs in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology

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# INTRODUCTION

The *Standards of Accreditation for Area of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology* are a national set of standards maintained by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the evaluation and accreditation of Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology 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 Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology, 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 Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology. 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*.

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## 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 2.2: There is an effective, organized system of trainee assessment.**

<b>Requirement(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>
<b>2.2.1:</b> The AFC program has a planned, defined, and implemented system of assessment.	<b>2.2.1.4:</b> The system of assessment meets the requirements of the Competency Portfolio for the Diploma in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology. <b>2.2.1.5:</b> The system of assessment includes a logbook of cases maintained by the trainee throughout training.

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**2.2.2:** There is a mechanism in place to engage trainees in a regular discussion for review of their performance, including timely support for trainees not attaining the required competencies as expected.

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**2.2.2.7:** The AFC director meets with the trainee at least every two months to review the logbook of procedures and the portfolio.

## **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.**

<b>Requirement(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>
<b>3.1.1:</b> The patient population is adequate to ensure that trainees attain required competencies.	<b>3.1.1.2:</b> The AFC program consistently provides access for all trainees to the volume and diversity of cases appropriate to support trainee development of competencies related to Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology, including autopsies, placental examinations, and cytology, biopsy, and surgical specimens.
<b>3.1.2:</b> Clinical and consultative services and facilities are effectively organized and adequate to ensure that trainees attain the required competencies.	<b>3.1.2.5:</b> The AFC program has access to adequate laboratory space and equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• autopsy suite</li><li>• gross dissection room</li><li>• facilities for intraoperative consultation</li></ul> <b>3.1.2.6:</b> The AFC program has access to diagnostic services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• histology, histochemistry, and immunohistochemistry</li><li>• immunofluorescence</li><li>• molecular pathology and cytogenetic testing</li><li>• post-mortem diagnostic imaging</li><li>• electron microscopy</li><li>• flow cytometry</li><li>• biochemistry, microbiology, and virology</li></ul>

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**3.1.3:** The AFC program has the necessary financial, physical, and technical resources.

**3.1.3.5:** The AFC program provides each resident with access to an adequate light microscope and computer.

**3.1.3.6:** The AFC program has access to a multi-headed light microscope.

**3.1.3.7:** The AFC program has access to microscopic and macroscopic digital photography.

**3.1.3.8:** The AFC program provides residents with access to current discipline-specific textbooks and reference material, including an electronic library and internet access.

**3.1.3.9:** There is adequate full-time access to a modern laboratory information system and electronic medical records.

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**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 university sponsors an accredited program in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology.

**3.1.4.3:** The AFC program has access to clinical and teaching services in maternal fetal medicine, medical genetics and genomics, pediatrics, pediatric subspecialties, pediatric surgery, forensic pathology, and neuropathology.

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

<b>Requirement(s)</b>	<b>Indicator(s)</b>
<b>3.2.1:</b> Teachers appropriately implement the curriculum, supervise, and assess trainees, contribute to the program, and role model effective practice.	<b>3.2.1.4:</b> The number, credentials, competencies, and scope of practice of the teachers are adequate to provide the breadth and depth of the AFC discipline, including required clinical and academic teaching that encompasses the basic and clinical sciences related to Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology. <b>3.2.1.5:</b> The AFC director has completed formal training in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology or has 5 years of anatomical pathology and general pathology practice with a major focus in Pediatric and/or Perinatal Pathology.

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## **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*.

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## **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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*This document is to be reviewed by the AFC Subcommittee in Pediatric and Perinatal Pathology by February 1, 2024*

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