ROYAL COLLEGE
OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF CANADA
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DES MÉDECINS ET CHIRURGIENS DU CANADA

Urology Training Experiences

2025
VERSION 2.0

These training requirements apply to those who begin training on or after July 1, 2025.

In addition to Surgical Foundations experiences,[1] the following training experiences are required, recommended, or optional as indicated:

TRANSITION TO DISCIPLINE (TTD)

The purpose of this stage is to introduce residents to the specialty of Urology and its unique professional identity, providing a comprehensive orientation to the educational program, the setting(s) in which they will work and train, and the collaborative nature of the discipline. This stage also serves to reconfirm the clinical skills achieved in medical school. Residents will assess, admit, and discharge patients on the Urology service.

Required training experiences (TTD stage)

1. Clinical training experiences:
    - 1.1. Urology
        - 1.1.1. Clinic
        - 1.1.2. Inpatient service
        - 1.1.3. Consultative service to the emergency department and other inpatient services
        - 1.1.4. Afterhours coverage

2. Other training experiences:
    - 2.1. Orientation to radiation and laser safety
    - 2.2. Focused experience providing early clinical and technical skills training (e.g., boot camp)

[1] Surgical Foundations provides a common curriculum and clinical training in the fundamental skills of surgery for residents in nine Royal College recognized surgical disciplines including Urology.

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2.3. Simulation training experiences in technical procedures

Recommended training experiences (TTD stage)

3. Clinical training experiences:
    3.1. Discharge planning rounds with inpatient interprofessional team

4. Other training experiences:
    4.1. Laser safety course/certification
    4.2. Radiation safety course/certification

Optional training experiences (TTD stage)

5. Clinical training experiences:
    5.1. Urology operative experience

FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLINE (F)

The focus of this stage is to build foundational knowledge and skills necessary for providing urological care. By the end of this stage, residents will be able to manage patients with urgent clinical conditions and assess patients with a breadth of non-urgent urological conditions. They will demonstrate competence in rigid and flexible cystoscopy, and participate in other surgical procedures.

Required training experiences (Foundations stage)

1. Clinical training experiences:
    1.1. Urology:
        1.1.1. Clinic
        1.1.2. Inpatient service
        1.1.3. Consultative service to emergency department and other inpatient services
        1.1.4. Cystoscopy in ambulatory patients
        1.1.5. Operative experience
        1.1.6. Afterhours coverage

    1.2. General surgery teaching service, to include inpatient care, consultation to other services as well as operative experience
    1.3. Intensive care unit
    1.4. Service that provides initial trauma management, such as emergency medicine, general surgery, trauma team, orthopedic surgery, or plastic surgery)

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2. Other training experiences:
    2.1. Formal instruction in the scientific knowledge essential to the practice of urology
    2.2. Formal instruction in research methods and research ethics
    2.3. Orientation to urological equipment including endoscopes, ultrasound and lasers
    2.4. Quality improvement activities (e.g., morbidity and mortality rounds)
    2.5. Journal club or other formal teaching in critical appraisal
    2.6. In-training examinations, including objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)
    2.7. Simulation training experiences in basic endoscopy, laparoscopy principles/Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS)

Recommended training experiences (Foundations stage)

3. Clinical training experiences:
    3.1. Pediatric urology
    3.2. Emergency medicine
    3.3. Nephrology, which may be inpatient and/or clinic
    3.4. Vascular surgery inpatient and operative experience
    3.5. Perioperative medicine clinic and anesthesia operative room experience

4. Other training experiences include:
    4.1. Focused formal instruction in:
        4.1.1. Teaching methods and skills

    4.2. Participation in interprofessional rounds (e.g., tumour board)

Optional training experiences (Foundations stage)

5. Clinical training experiences:
    5.1. Pathology of the genitourinary system
    5.2. Medical imaging of the genitourinary system
    5.3. Urogynecology/ gynecology
    5.4. Internal medicine
    5.5. Thrombosis/hematology
    5.6. Plastic surgery

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5.7. Pediatric surgery

5.8. Anesthesiology

CORE OF DISCIPLINE (C)

The focus of this stage is to further develop the skills and knowledge required to manage patients with urological presentations, with both medical and operative interventions, throughout the course of their condition. Residents will experience the breadth of Urology, in all clinical settings, and participate in the full spectrum of urological endoscopic, minimally invasive, and operative procedures.

Required training experiences (Core stage)

1. Clinical training experiences:
    1.1. Urology in the breadth of the discipline, including andrology, oncology, female and reconstructive urology, voiding dysfunction, renal transplantation, endourology, and pediatric urology:
        1.1.1. Clinic
        1.1.2. Inpatient service
        1.1.3. Consultative service to emergency department and other inpatient services
        1.1.4. Endoscopy procedures
        1.1.5. Operative experience
        1.1.6. Afterhours coverage

    1.2. Clinical leadership of the urology service team

2. Other training experiences:
    2.1. Formal instruction in the scientific knowledge essential to the practice of urology
    2.2. Journal club or other formal teaching in critical appraisal
    2.3. In-training examinations, OSCE
    2.4. Scholarly work, including development and conduct of a scholarly project
    2.5. Career counselling

Recommended training experiences (Core stage)

3. Clinical training experiences:
    3.1. Urology in a community setting
    3.2. Urology at another academic centre
    3.3. Participation in interprofessional rounds e.g., tumour board

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4. Other training experiences:
    4.1. Simulation training experiences for surgical skills tailored to individual needs (e.g., suturing at acute angle/pyeloplasty)

Optional training experiences (Core stage)

5. Clinical training experiences:
    5.1. Medical oncology clinic
    5.2. Radiation oncology clinic
    5.3. Nephrology clinic and/or consultation service
    5.4. Pathology of the genitourinary system
    5.5. Medical imaging of the genitourinary system

6. Other training experiences:
    6.1. On-line course on robotic surgery

TRANSITION TO PRACTICE (TTP)

The focus of this stage is to refine and polish skills as a surgeon, and to manage all aspects of clinical practice, balancing both administrative and surgical responsibilities. The resident will also prepare for independent practice and the demands of practice management and continuing professional development.

Required training experiences (TTP stage)

1. Clinical training experiences:
    1.1. Urology:
        1.1.1. Clinic
        1.1.2. Inpatient service
        1.1.3. Consultative service to emergency department and other inpatient services
        1.1.4. Endoscopy procedures
        1.1.5. Operative experience
        1.1.6. Afterhours coverage

2. Other training experiences:
    2.1. Formal instruction in:
        2.1.1. Billing codes and ethical billing practices

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2.1.2. Practice management

2.1.3. Financial management

2.1.4. Medical liability and malpractice insurance

2.1.5. Conflict resolution in the workplace

2.1.6. Physician wellness and sustainability of surgical practice

2.2. Observation with a mentor for practice management

Recommended training experiences (TTP stage)

3. Clinical training experiences:
   3.1. Clinic and/or endoscopy suite experience in the role of most responsible physician
   3.2. Participation in interprofessional rounds e.g., tumour board

4. Other training experiences:
   4.1. Participation in professional organizations e.g., Canadian Urological Association, American Urological Association, provincial medical organizations
   4.2. Orientation to requirements for maintenance of competence e.g., Mainport
   4.3. Formal instruction/courses in leadership/mentorship
   4.4. Providing continuing professional development for primary care practitioners

Optional training experiences (TTP stage)

5. Clinical training experiences:
   5.1. Urology in a community setting

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CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Royal College certification in Urology requires all of the following:

1. Proof of attestation in Surgical Foundations (see the Surgical Foundations standards on the "Information by Discipline" page of the Royal College's website)

2. Successful completion of the Royal College examination in Urology

3. Successful completion of the Urology Portfolio

NOTES

The Urology Portfolio refers to the list of entrustable professional activities across all four stages of the residency Competence Continuum and associated national standards for assessment and achievement.

Proof of attestation in Surgical Foundations is required for a resident to progress formally into the Core stage of training in Urology. Some residents may "reach ahead" to start working on elements of the Core stage in Urology but must present proof of the Surgical Foundations attestation to their program before they can be formally promoted into the Core stage of Urology.

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 Urology has required 5 years. Individual duration of training may be influenced by many factors, which may include but are not limited to the resident'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 program director.

Guidance for programs

The Royal College Specialty Committee in Urology suggested course of training, for the purposes of planning learning experiences and schedules, is as follows:

- Two months in Transition to Discipline
- 12-18 months in Foundations, including 8-14 months of Urology, two to four months of General Surgery and two to three months of critical care
- 34-43 months in Core
- Three to six months in Transition to Practice

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Guidance for postgraduate medical offices

For planning purposes, the stages of the Competence Continuum in Urology are generally no longer than 2 months for Transition to Discipline, 18 months for Foundations, 43 months for Core and 6 months for Transition to Practice.

This document is to be reviewed by the Specialty Committee in Urology by December 2027.

APPROVED – Specialty Standards Review Committee – October 2017
REVISED (content related to Surgical Foundations only) – Specialty Committee in Urology and the Office of Standards and Assessment – July 2024
APPROVED – Office of Standards and Assessment (as delegated by the Specialty Standards Review Committee) – July 2024

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