

“All-In” Policy Program Participation and Exceptions

ALL-IN POLICY:

Beginning with the 2013 Main Residency Match, any program that participates in The Match must register and attempt to fill all of its positions through The Match or another national matching plan. A “program” is defined by its ACGME number.

The All-In Policy applies to positions for which the NRMP offers matching services, including PGY-1 preliminary and categorical positions and PGY-2 positions in advanced programs. However, PGY-2 or higher positions in categorical programs and PGY-3 or higher positions in advanced programs are not subject to the Policy because the NRMP does not match for those positions.

This policy does not apply to fellowship programs.

ARE THERE EXCEPTIONS?

- **Rural Scholars Programs:** programs in which students graduate medical school in three years and commit during medical school to that school's Family Medicine residency program.
- **Family Medicine Accelerated Programs:** programs in which students make an early commitment to Family Medicine and are channeled in to that track in one of four affiliated programs.
- **Post-SOAP positions:** preliminary positions created by programs at the conclusion of the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance program for partially matched applicants who failed to obtain the PGY-1 position required to fulfill their binding PGY-2 match commitment.
- **Off-cycle appointments:** if training would begin prior to February 1 in the year of The Match, the position can be offered outside The Match; if training would begin after February 1, the position must be filled through The Match.

WHY ARE THERE NOT OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO THE ALL-IN POLICY?

International Medical Graduates: ECFMG data averaged over the last 5 appointment years (2007-2011) show that 90 percent of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) approved for J-1 visas were able to begin training on time. With such a high percentage of “on-time” arrivals, an exception to the All-In Policy is not warranted.

Programs in rural and medically underserved areas: The NRMP analyzed the 2010 Match participation and fill rates for programs located in federally designated medically underserved areas (MUA) and rural areas. Forty percent of the programs were located in MUAs and their average fill rate was 95 percent. Three percent of the programs were located in rural areas, and they also had an average fill rate of 95 percent. Their high success rate in The Match shows an exception to the All-In Policy is not warranted.

Unique circumstances: Within the NRMP's R3 system, program tracks can be created for

- International medical graduates with funding from their home countries
- Combined clinical-research programs where the first year is not clinical training
- Unexpected openings in advanced specialties where a PGY-2 position can be filled in the year of The Match

Thus, no exceptions are warranted.

“All-In” Policy Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. I am the director of an advanced Neurology program, and one of my applicants has received a waiver of her 2014 binding Match commitment. Can I fill her position outside of The Match?**

If a waiver of a binding commitment has been approved by the NRMP, the program may fill the position outside The Match provided training will begin prior to February 1.

- 2. I've received an application from an individual who has returned from the military and wishes to begin training immediately. Can I offer her a position outside of The Match?**

If the applicant can begin training prior to February 1, the position can be filled outside The Match; however, if training would begin after February 1, the applicant and the position must be in The Match.

- 3. I have a PGY-1 Internal Medicine resident who wants to transfer to my Anesthesiology program at the end of the academic year. Can I offer him a position outside The Match?**

A resident can transfer to a position outside The Match if the position is one for which the NRMP does not offer Matching services. The applicant could transfer to a PGY-2 position in a categorical Anesthesiology program because the NRMP does not offer Matching services for the second-year of training in categorical programs; however, if the program is advanced and thus begins at the PGY-2 level, the applicant and the position must be in The Match because the NRMP provides Matching services for PGY-2 positions in advanced programs, regardless of whether training would begin in the year of The Match or the year after The Match.

- 4. My program is dually-accredited. Do I have to place all my positions in The Match?**

Programs accredited by both the ACGME and the AOA will register some positions in the AOA Match and some in the Main Residency Match. If the program reverts to the Main Residency Match any positions not filled in the AOA Match, the program will be subject to the Match Week requirements in Section 7.0 of the Match Participation Agreement for Applicants and Programs.

- 5. I am interested in pursuing a combined clinical-research program where my first year in the program would be research. Can the program offer me a position outside The Match?**

No. The NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3) system allows program directors to create special tracks that have a non-clinical first year of training, so those positions must be offered through The Match.

- 6. I am an international graduate who has to obtain a visa in order to begin training. Can I accept a position outside The Match to ensure my visa is processed in a timely manner?**

Data from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates show that 90 percent of IMGs on J-1 visas are able to begin training "on time". Thus, no exception is warranted

- 7. I currently am a PGY-2 Pediatrics resident and am interested in pursuing training in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Can I make a mid-career specialty change outside The Match?**

It depends. A resident can make a mid-career specialty change, but if the change is to a position for which the NRMP provides Matching services, the applicant and the program must use The Match. If, however, the applicant would receive sufficient credit for prior training to enter the new program at a level for which the NRMP does not provide matching services, the position may be offered outside The Match.

8. I learned after The Match that my Radiology program has been approved for an increase in resident complement. Can I recruit for the positions outside of The Match?

If training would begin before February 1, the positions can be offered outside The Match; otherwise, the positions must be registered in The Match. If the Radiology program begins in the PGY-2 year, a reserved (R) track can be created in the R3 system to accommodate advanced programs that wish to offer training beginning in the year of The Match to physicians with prior graduate medical education.

9. I want to consider my program's applicant pool before deciding whether to participate in the Main Residency Match. What is the latest I can register for The Match and activate my program?

Program directors can register for the Main Residency Match until the February rank order list deadline, but the program must be activated for Match participation no later than the January 31 quota change deadline. Because the All-In Policy becomes effective on September 1, 2012, programs planning to participate in the Match cannot offer positions outside the Match prior to program director registration and program activation. Once a position has been offered outside the Match, the program no longer is eligible to enroll in the Match unless the offered position falls into one of the exception categories.

NRMP staff is available to answer questions and to assist programs in making the adjustments needed to align their participation with the new Policy.