



Palliative Medicine: Program Description

Background:

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) recently recognized Palliative Medicine as a two-year subspecialty residency training program and is now accepting applications to have accredited programs in Palliative Medicine.

Accredited Programs:

At the moment, no university has an officially accredited subspecialty program in Palliative Medicine, but several universities have begun the application process and the RCPSC will review these applications in the fall. Some universities have not begun this process but plan to in the near future. Note that a program does not have to be accredited in order to accept applicants, or to begin training residents, but a program does need to be accredited within 11 months of the start of training in order for that training to be recognized for subspecialty certification. For trainees who would begin subspecialty training on July 1, 2017 (applying for programs in Fall 2016), there will be four universities accepting applications (as per the program directors).

- University of British Columbia (1 position)
 - Program Director: Dr. Charlie Chen (charlie.chen@ubc.ca)
- University of Manitoba (1 position)
 - PD: Dr. Christian LaRiviere (clariviere@wrha.mb.ca)
- University of Ottawa (1 position)
 - PD: Dr. Chris Barnes (CBarnes@bruyere.org)
- Queen's University (1 position)
 - PD: Dr. Ingrid Harle (harlei@kgh.kari.net)
- University of Toronto (2 positions)
 - PD: Dr. James Downar (james.downar@utoronto.ca)

Eligibility: (from the RCPSC website)

Royal College Certification in Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology, or Neurology, or enrolment in a Royal College accredited residency program in these disciplines (see requirements for these qualifications).

Entry from other specialties may occur but must follow completion of the primary specialty training and must include the prerequisites of:

Twelve (12) months of clinical medicine-based rotations with a minimum of 6 months at a senior level designed to allow achievement of competencies in the consultation and care of complex medical patients, interprofessional care, and effective communication skills.

All candidates must be certified in their primary specialty in order to be eligible to write the Royal College certification examination in adult Palliative Medicine (which is still to be developed).

Eligibility Criteria:

For funding purposes, each province has criteria that must be met by applicants to apply for positions within that province. Please carefully review the Manitoba criteria when preparing to apply to the University of Manitoba's Palliative Medicine program. Please visit the CaRMS website for details regarding [provincial criteria](#).

Application Process:

For this year, the application process will take place outside of the CaRMS Medicine Subspecialty Match (MSM). In order to simplify the application process, and avoid any issue of CaRMS-related commitments, the five universities that are accepting applicants have chosen to harmonize their application processes and timelines, with the aim of making offers and confirming successful applicants prior to the residents' Rank Order List (ROL) submission deadline of October 27th (which is the last day that a resident can withdraw from CaRMS). This way, no applicant should have to make the difficult decision of whether to withdraw their CaRMS application without first being certain that he/she has been accepted into a Palliative Medicine residency position.

The components and timeline for the application process will be similar to that for the CaRMS MSM:

1. **Application Submission & Deadline:** Applicants must submit completed applications no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, September 9, 2016 to the applicable residency programs:
 - University of British Columbia: Dr. Charlie Chen (charliechen@me.com)
 - University of Manitoba: Dr. Christian LaRiviere (clariviere@wrha.mb.ca)
 - University of Ottawa: Dr. Chris Barnes (CBarnes@bruyere.org)
 - Queen's University: Dr. Ingrid Harle (harlei@kgh.kari.net)
 - University of Toronto: Dr. James Downar (james.downar@utoronto.ca)

Applications and supporting documents submitted after September 9, 2016 will not be considered or reviewed. Any applications missing the required documents listed below will be considered incomplete.

- **Curriculum vitae**
- **Canadian Citizenship** – submit one of the following documents to verify your citizenship
 - Canadian Birth Certificate or Act of Birth

- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship
- Confirmation of Permanent Residence in Canada
- Passport page showing Canadian Citizenship
- Canadian Permanent Resident Card (both sides)
- **Personal Statement** - 500 word maximum
- **3 reference letters**
 - One letter must come from your current program director, and we require at least one letter to come from teaching faculty with clinical exposure to the applicant. Please give some thought to your selection of referees. They should know you well and be in a position to comment on your clinical skills, knowledge and interpersonal skills. They should be able to compare your performance to the expected standard of your level, or other residents they have worked with. Letters in excess of 3 will not be reviewed; with the committee reviewing only the first 3 sequential letters in the applicant's file.

Additional required IMG documents

- Language Proficiency: Submit one of the following documents to verify your language proficiency.
 - IELTS
 - Letter of language proficiency
 - TOEFL - IBT
- Must provide proof of English or French language proficiency through ONE of the following:
 - International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7 in each component, OR
 - TOEFL-Ibt – passing score of 93 including a minimum score of 24 on the speaking section, OR
 - A pass result in the French proficiency test administered by the Collège des Médecins du Québec, OR
 - Candidates for whom their primary and secondary, or medical school education was conducted in English or French, the Ontario medical schools will accept Language Proficiency Attestations as follows:
 1. Primary and Secondary Education: Mailed directly from the Senior Academic Administrators of both schools to the program confirming that all of the candidate's primary and secondary education was conducted completely in English or French.
 2. Medical School: Mailed directly from the Dean of the candidate's medical school confirming that the language of instruction and patient care was conducted completely in English or French OR
 3. International Medical Education Directory (IMED) Language Option – If the instruction and the language of patient care at the undergraduate medical school was conducted completely in English or French, then a

candidate can submit to the Program a copy or printout of the World Director of Medical Schools website listing the medical school which clearly states that the language of instruction is English or French.

- MCCEE – Statement of Results
 - MCCEE – Supplemental Feedback Report
2. **Interview Invitations:** Programs will contact all applicants selected for an interview, via email, between Wednesday, September 14, 2016 and Friday, September 16, 2016 (inclusive).
 3. **Interview Process:** Interviews will be conducted by the residency programs between Wednesday, October 5, 2016 and Thursday, October 13, 2016 (inclusive).
 4. **Rank Order List (ROL):** After interviews are conducted, both candidates and schools are to submit their ROL to Mary-Kay Whittaker marykay.whittaker@utoronto.ca before 3:00 p.m. EST on Monday, October 17, 2016. Ms. Whittaker is an independent consultant who previously ran the Ontario IMG match. She is currently on contract with the University of Toronto, but will operate as a neutral third party.
 5. **Match Results:** Match results will be submitted to candidates and Program Directors at 12:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.
 6. **Match Confirmation:** Candidates are to confirm their acceptances with their matched school Program Director by email as soon as reasonably possible. The deadline to confirm acceptance is 12:00 p.m. EST on Friday, October 21, 2016

Interview Details:

Application files will be reviewed and scored by members of a file review committee on the basis of the personal statement, reference letters, interest in palliative medicine, interest in academic work, and the strength of the curriculum vitae/ transcript. Applicants will be contacted for interviews once the files have been reviewed.

Each candidate will undergo an interview with a panel of 3 or more interviewers. The interview panel will include the Program Director and a current or recent graduate from the conjointly accredited residency training program. Candidates will have an opportunity to ask questions about the program at the end of the interview.

Candidates who do not have an interview will not be considered for ranking.

Selection Criteria:

Each school will rank its candidates using its own selection process.

University of Manitoba, Palliative Medicine candidates will be selected based on:

1. A strong file, including:
 - a. A well-written personal statement, outlining your reasons for applying to the subspecialty residency program.
 - b. Evidence of clinical skill in palliative care from referees.
 - c. Evidence of interest in palliative medicine
2. Performance during the interview, including:
 - a. Interpersonal and communication skill.
 - b. Commitment to Palliative Medicine

The ideal candidate is a compassionate physician who has demonstrated strong clinical skills and commitment to palliative medicine, and who has shown an interest in pursuing scholarly or academic activity. If you have any questions about the application process or the residency training programs, please do not hesitate to contact one of the program directors listed above.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is the difference between this program and the 12-month training program that previous trainees have completed?

A: The previous 12-month program (the “conjoint” program) was a training program that all final-year trainees or practicing physicians could apply to, which was conjointly accredited by the RCPSC and the CFPC. This program will no longer exist as of July 2017. This program was replaced by 2 separate programs- a 12-month certificate of added competency program accredited by the CCFP (which is intended for family medicine trainees and graduates only) and a 24-month subspecialty program accredited by the RCPSC (the program described on this web page) that allows multiple entry routes.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible to apply for the subspecialty program?

A: According to the RCPSC, trainees are eligible to apply if they have Royal College Certification in Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology, or Neurology, or enrolment in a Royal College accredited residency program in these disciplines (see requirements for these qualifications).

Entrance from other specialties may occur but must follow completion of the primary specialty training and must include twelve (12) months of clinical medicine-based rotations with a minimum of 6 months at a senior level (e.g. PGY-2 or if resident is regularly entrusted with responsibility for direct independent patient care under the supervision of and direct

responsibility to a senior subspecialty resident or faculty member), designed to allow achievement of competencies in the consultation and care of complex medical patients, interprofessional care, and effective communication skills.

All candidates must be certified in their primary specialty in order to be eligible to write the Royal College certification examination in Adult Palliative Medicine.

If you are unsure whether or not your training would make you eligible to apply, do not hesitate to contact the program director.

Q: This program has not yet been approved by the RCPSC. If there is any delay in the process and the program is not approved this fall, will I still be able to start my training in July 2017?

A: A trainee can begin a training program even before the training program itself has been officially approved by the RCPSC. The program must receive approval within the first 11 months of the start of training (in this case, June 2018).

Q: Do I need to do an elective at the host University in order to be accepted?

A: We are looking for trainees who are skilled, dedicated and interested in a career in Palliative Care. This skill, dedication and interest can be demonstrated at any University. It is helpful to have completed an elective at any university where you are applying (for you as much as for the program), but this is not a requirement to be accepted into a program.