

Competency-Based Accreditation Standards for Residency Training

As I learned, much to my surprise, while researching an essay for a course I took several years ago, the Canadian pharmacy literature reveals very little about our collective history of pharmacy residency training. Why did Saskatchewan hospital pharmacists of the 1950s decide to start pharmacy residency programs? What prompted new programs to be started in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and New Brunswick over the past 5 years? What have residency programs and their graduates contributed to Canadian pharmacy practice over the past 50 years? How and why have residencies changed in content and delivery? Finally, having so little “local” history to use as a point of reference, how can we predict what the future might hold for residency training in Canada?

That said, it should be obvious how pleased I was to hear that *CJHP* would be publishing the collective thoughts of the Hospital Pharmacy Residency Forum of Ontario regarding future pharmacy residency training in Canada (see their position statement starting on page 210 in this issue).¹ This is truly a subject that requires not only discussion over coffee or at conference breaks, but also in the pages of our Journal. The authors are to be congratulated for sharing these ideas with us. Their comments provide a starting place for a discussion that I hope will be fruitful, as the Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board (CHPRB) begins consultations associated with a major revision to the CHPRB Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Residency Training in Canada.

Over the next 2 years, the CHPRB will solicit feedback regarding the 2010 Accreditation Standards through workshops at CSHP Annual General Meetings and Professional Practice

Conferences and through the CHPRB Web site. The publication of the 2010 standards will mark changes in both format and content:

- There will be clearer distinction between standards associated with program administration and standards associated with academic content (curriculum).
- Redefining residency program content standards according to competency-based methods, rather than the current mixture of curriculum and competency-based methods, will bring the 2010 standards into alignment with other pharmacy education standards in North America.

To create these new standards, pharmacists will be challenged to decide where residency training “fits” relative to other forms of pharmacy education and training — much the same as the authors of the HPRFO document have attempted to do. I know that my fellow CHPRB members join me in welcoming hospital pharmacists’ thoughts about the future of pharmacy residency training in Canada, as we begin working toward our new competency-based 2010 Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy Residency Training.

Reference

1. Executive of Hospital Pharmacy Residency Forum of Ontario. Position paper on the role of hospital residency programs in clinical training and professional development in the era of the proposed entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy program. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 2006;59:210-3.

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