Specialty Training Requirements in Cardiac Surgery

2005

These specialty requirements apply to those who began creditable training on or after June 1, 2000.

Acceptance to write the Royal College Certification Examination in Cardiac Surgery will require:

Pathway 1. Six years of approved residency training. This period must include:

1.1. Twenty-four months of core surgery (see Objectives of Core Surgery)
1.2. Six months of approved residency training in Cardiac Surgery
1.3. One year of approved senior residency in or under the aegis of accredited programs in some combination of General Surgery, Vascular Surgery or Thoracic Surgery, with up to six months in any one of these disciplines
1.4. Six months of approved senior residency training on a dedicated congenital Cardiac Surgery service with a minimum of 3 months on a pediatric cardiac surgery service.
1.5. Twelve months of approved senior residency training in adult Cardiac Surgery
1.6. Twelve months of academic/clinical enrichment

This year is flexible both in terms of its content and its location within the six years of residency training. For those individuals entering a clinician investigator program, the academic enrichment period could serve as the initial phase of a two or three year program leading to qualifications for a Masters degree or PhD. For other residents, the year, or part of it, might be spent in clinical situations to obtain further training in Vascular Surgery or one of the subspecialty areas within Cardiac Surgery.

A period of focused training could include:

1.6.1. basic science research and study related to cardiovascular sciences;
1.6.2. clinical science research and study related to cardiovascular sciences
1.6.3. six months of cardiovascular sciences subspecialty / didactic training including some or all of: Perfusion Science; Cardiology (CCU / consultation, Echo, Cath Lab); Cardiac Pathology; Chest and Vascular Radiology to include tomography, CT scanning, MRJ, noninvasive and invasive vascular studies; pacemaker service including pacemaker and defibrillator implantation and clinic-follow-up; cardiac sciences basic research laboratory introductory experience, and / or database management including the concepts and mechanisms of reliability audit, quality appraisal and improvement, risk adjustment and systematic late follow-up. This period of training would provide broad exposure to important subjects that were otherwise not covered during the regular Cardiac Surgery rotations or the core years;
1.6.4. highly focused clinical training, for example in transplantation, critical care medicine, great vessel surgery, additional accredited pediatric Cardiac Surgery, new or less common techniques and evolving technologies including:
stentless valves, pulmonary autographs, atrial and ventricular dysrhythmia surgery, biventricular assist devices / out-patient ventricular assist programs, and / or alternative surgical approaches for end-stage heart disease which may include cardiomyoplasty, ventriculoplasty, transmyocardial revascularization, multisite / multi chamber pacing, artificial organ development, and clinical / applied research programs related to any of the preceding;

1.6.5. surgical education in a specialized program approved for postgraduate qualification in education;

1.6.6. combinations of the above.

**Notes regarding Pathway 1:**

The sequence of the requirements listed above does not imply that they must be met in the same order. However, the senior residency training required under Section 1.3., 1.4. and 1.6. should ordinarily be undertaken during the final years of residency.

Senior residency is defined as a period during which the resident is regularly entrusted with the responsibility for pre-operative, operative, and post-operative care. This must include the most difficult problems in adult Cardiac Surgery. No other resident shall intervene between the senior resident and the attending staff surgeon.

OR

**Pathway 2. Full residency training in General Surgery in a Royal College accredited program plus:**

2.1. Six months of approved senior residency training on a dedicated congenital Cardiac Surgery service with a minimum of 3 months on a pediatric cardiac surgery service.

2.2. Six months of approved Cardiac Surgery residency training if not completed under the aegis of an accredited Cardiac Surgery program during the course of training for General Surgery.

2.3. Six months of approved senior residency training in Thoracic and / or Vascular Surgery if not completed under the aegis of an accredited Thoracic or Vascular Surgery program during the course of training for General Surgery.

2.4. Twelve months of academic enrichment as under 1.6. if not completed during General Surgery training.

2.5. Twelve months of Senior Residency in Cardiac Surgery.

OR

**Pathway 3. Full training in Thoracic Surgery in a Royal College approved program plus:**

1.1. Six months of approved senior residency training on a dedicated congenital Cardiac Surgery service with a minimum of 3 months on a pediatric cardiac surgery service.

1.2. Twelve months academic enrichment as under 1.5. if not completed during Thoracic Surgery training (it is recommended that this period include three to six months of senior vascular surgery experience)

1.3. Twelve months of Senior Residency in adult Cardiac Surgery.
Note regarding Pathways 2 and 3:

All approved Canadian Cardiac Surgery training programs are required to demonstrate adequate resources for the six year pathway. The alternative entry pathways (2 and 3) are detailed to give more advanced candidates a general ideal of the range of additional training that may be required. Partial training in a Royal College approved program may also be recognized at the discretion of the Credentials Committee. It is very important to understand that the specific additional training required by a candidate, under any of the alternate pathways, cannot be assumed by either potential trainees or program directors. For each candidate, request for assessment of prior postgraduate training and for determination of additional training requirements must be submitted to the Office of Education - Credentials of the Royal College. It is prudent to seek approval prior to entering one of the alternative pathways.

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