

Guidelines for Interventional Radiology Gap Year Complements Review Committee for Radiology

The transition and implementation of the new training paradigm in interventional radiology is well under way and most interventional radiology-integrated programs started participating in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match in 2017 or later. This transition will culminate with the sunset of the current one-year vascular and interventional radiology (VIR) fellowships on June 30, 2020. With the closure of the one-year VIR programs in 2020, there may be interventional radiology-integrated programs that will not have residents in the interventional radiology-focused years of training (PGY-5 and PGY-6) at that time. As such, the interventional radiology-independent programs at those institutions may wish to request a temporary increase in complement to account for the shortfall of interventional radiology residents within the institution.

Appendix 1 outlines the timeline for interventional radiology-integrated programs that participated in the 2017 NRMP Main Residency Match, and where these programs may anticipate shortfalls in the number of interventional radiology residents at their institutions.

Q and A

1	<p>Question: Why might interventional radiology-integrated programs have unfilled PGY-6 interventional radiology positions for Academic Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All VIR fellowships will sunset on June 30, 2020. Consequently, the last VIR fellowship class will graduate in June 2020 (AY2019-2020). • The first large-scale NRMP Match for interventional radiology-integrated positions took place in March 2017. • As the chart in Appendix 1 demonstrates, interventional radiology-integrated programs that began matching residents in March 2017 may have vacant positions in the PGY-5 and PGY-6 for AY2020-2021, and in the PGY-6 for AY2021-2022, unless they were able to transfer residents from their diagnostic radiology program to fill these advanced-level positions.
2	<p>Question: How can an interventional radiology-integrated program at an institution with an accredited interventional radiology-independent program fill vacant interventional radiology positions for AY2020-2021 and AY2021-2022?</p> <p>Answer: Programs can transfer residents from the diagnostic radiology program to the interventional radiology-integrated program from within the same Sponsoring Institution, provided they meet the requirements in Section III.C. of the Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Interventional Radiology, or the interventional radiology-independent program director can request a temporary increase in complement to cover the vacant positions.</p>

3	<p>Question: How can an interventional radiology-integrated program at an institution <i>without</i> an accredited independent program fill vacant interventional radiology positions for AY2020-2021 and AY2021-2022?</p> <p>Answer: Programs can transfer residents from the diagnostic radiology program to the interventional radiology-integrated program from within the same Sponsoring Institution, provided they meet the requirements in Section III.C. of the Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Interventional Radiology.</p>
4	<p>Question: How would an interventional radiology-independent program director request a temporary increase in complement?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The program director must contact Review Committee staff to initiate the request within the Accreditation Data System (ADS). 2) The program director must complete all components of the request; including a rationale for the increase (e.g., the institution’s interventional radiology-integrated program will not yet have residents at the PGY-5 and PGY-6 levels), and the duration of the requested increase (temporary increases can be effective for multiple years, if needed). 3) The program director must submit the request via ADS. 4) The designated institutional official (DIO) must sign off on the request, and send the final submission to the Review Committee staff via ADS. <p>To clarify the process for DIOs, an explanation of the rationale for interventional radiology-independent programs requesting these temporary complement increases was distributed via the ACGME <i>e-Communication</i>.</p>
5	<p>Question: How will a program know if its temporary complement increase request is approved?</p> <p>Answer: Review of temporary complement increases typically occurs within one to two weeks of receipt of the request by the ACGME. Once approved, programs will receive approval notification via ADS. Programs should plan ahead and submit temporary complement increase requests to allow enough time for their processing and approval.</p>

Appendix 1. Interventional Radiology Residency Timeline

ACGME Timeline	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	GAP YEARS		2022-2023
								2020-2021	2021-2022	
	ACGME Board approves new interventional radiology program formats	Review Committee drafts Program Requirements for Interventional Radiology	Application window for interventional radiology programs begins	First interventional radiology-integrated Match	Last VIR fellowship Match	First interventional radiology-independent Match	Last VIR fellowship year	First interventional radiology-independent year	Second interventional radiology-independent year	Steady state (all positions filled through Match)
VIR Fellowship (PGY-6)	VIR Fellows	VIR Fellows	VIR Fellows	VIR Fellows	VIR Fellows	VIR Fellows	Last VIR Fellows			
Interventional radiology-integrated cohort for programs that recruited for PGY-2 positions in March 2017 Match - residents entering PGY-2 in July 2018								PGY-6 Vacancy PGY-5 Vacancy PGY-4 Vacancy PGY-3 Vacancy	PGY-6 Vacancy PGY-5 Vacancy PGY-4 Vacancy PGY-3	PGY-6 Vacancy PGY-5 PGY-4 PGY-3
								PGY-2	PGY-2	PGY-2

Analysis

In 2020-2021, interventional radiology-integrated programs that started recruiting PGY-2 residents through the Match in March 2017 will not yet have filled PGY-5 and PGY-6 positions in 2020-2021. Similarly, in 2021-2022 the PGY-6 position will not yet be filled.

The shortfall of PGY-6 and PGY-5 interventional radiology-integrated residents can be made up for by a commensurate increase in complement for interventional radiology-independent residents during these two years.

Explanation for "Gap Years" that May Occur in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

VIR fellowships will close June 2020.

The first large-scale Match for interventional radiology-integrated residents took place in March 2017.

Interventional radiology-integrated programs, through the Match, will not have filled PGY-6 and PGY-5 positions by the time VIR fellowships sunset.

Therefore, there may be no residents in the interventional radiology portion of a program during the gap years (i.e., no PGY-5 and PGY-6 interventional radiology residents in 2020-2021, and no PGY-6 interventional radiology residents in 2021-2022).

Options for Filling Interventional Radiology Positions during the Gap Years

1. Temporarily increase the complement of interventional radiology-independent residents for the gap years to offset the shortfall of interventional radiology-integrated residents
2. Transfer diagnostic radiology residents from to interventional radiology at the same institution (current diagnostic radiology PGY-2s and -3s) to fill PGY-5 and PGY-6 respectively in 2020-2021