



# Accreditation Briefing

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RDoC Board Member

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**Resident  
Doctors  
of Canada**



**Médecins  
résidents  
du Canada**



# Overview

- What is accreditation?
- The accreditation process of postgraduate medical education (PGME)
- The role of residents in the accreditation process
- What happens before, during and after the accreditation visit?



# Accreditation is...

- A peer-reviewed process of **continuous quality improvement**
- Based on **Standards** common to all postgraduate medical training programs in Canada
- An **opportunity** to promote your program's strengths and identify areas for improvement

Residents play an integral role in the Accreditation process in Canada



# Accreditation is...

- Meant to improve the quality of residency education by seeking to ensure that all necessary resources are available and utilized efficiently and effectively to enable residents to meet the training requirements of their specialty, subspecialty or area of focused competence.



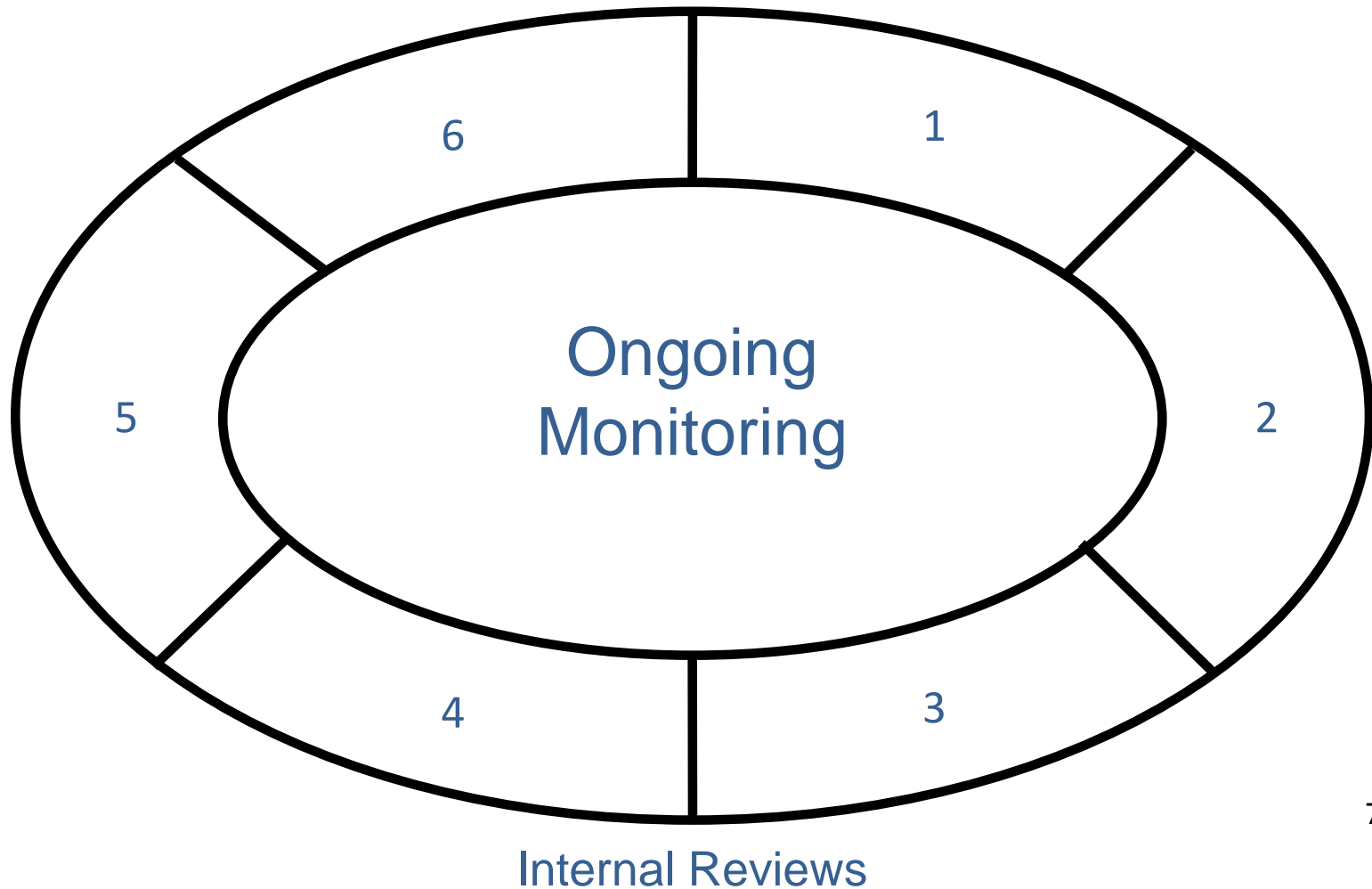
# Important Facts

- Accreditation is NOT a test
- A resident would not lose their position due to accreditation status
- Confidentiality is maintained



# The Accreditation Survey Cycle

The PGME accreditation process in Canada is based on a system of regular formal full University survey visits that occur every six years





# General Standards of Accreditation (conjoint)

## **“A” Standards**

- Applies to University, specifically the office of the Postgraduate Dean and Educational sites

## **“B” Standards**

- Applies to EACH residency program



# Before the Accreditation Survey

- **Royal College/CFPC pre-survey visit**
  - Colleges' meetings with the programs and chief residents
  - Colleges' pre-survey documentation for the Survey team prepared (documents you have already received from the Colleges for the on-site visit):
    - Pre-survey questionnaires (PSQs) completed by the programs
    - Program-specific Standards (OTR/STR/SSA/FM)
    - Report of last regular survey
    - Exam results for last six years
    - Reports of mandated CFPC and Royal College reviews since last regular survey, if applicable.





# Before the Accreditation Survey

- **RDoC (formerly CAIR) pre-accreditation questionnaire**
  - Distributed by PARO approximately 6-8 months prior to the on-site visit to all residents in accredited programs. This questionnaire is specifically designed to obtain the resident perspective on their training. **Results are confidential, anonymous and NOT given to the survey team, program or faculty.**
- **RDoC (formerly CAIR) pre-accreditation questionnaire reports**
  - PARO collates/analyzes the results and prepares two reports (one for Family Medicine, the other for Royal College programs), which are provided ONLY to the resident representatives on the Royal College and CFPC Survey teams.
- **Teleconference with PARO**
  - Note: unlike the other members of the survey team, Royal College resident surveyors are not pre-assigned, by the College, particular programs to review, so the teleconference will provide an opportunity to decide which programs to visit and to bring forward these suggestions to the Survey Chair at the Sunday meeting of the survey teams.



# During the Accreditation visit

- Survey Team reviews Colleges' documents provided, for example, Residency Program Committee Minutes, Pre-Survey Documentation etc.
- Survey Team meets with program director, department head, Teaching faculty, residents, Residency Program Committee.
- Of all the meetings, the time with the residents has perhaps the greatest influence on the surveyors

**Resident surveyors are full members of the Royal College and CFPC survey teams.**



# Meetings with the residents at McMaster

- Looking for balance of strengths & challenges; focus on Standards.
- Some topics discussed:
  - **Environment for residency education**
    - Service to education balance
    - Educational environment
    - Supervision
    - Resident orientation and input
  - **How program supports residents to achieve competencies**
    - Objectives of training
    - On-going assessments of resident performance
    - Increasing professional responsibility
    - Academic program / protected time
    - Program evaluation
    - Career counseling; Safety; Intimidation and harassment



# Meetings with the residents at McMaster

- Accreditation is the opportunity for residents at McMaster to openly and honestly evaluate, and help improve the quality of their residency program **with complete anonymity**.
- Feedback given to the survey team will help their program to continue to promote areas of strength and at the same time, focus on areas that need improvement.
- Key questions to keep in mind:
  - What are the program strengths?
  - What are the areas that need improvement?
  - What can accreditation do to improve your residency program?
  - What resources do you need?



# In Summary

Residents are critical to the process, and **their** input is **highly** valued.

Accreditation provides residents the mechanism to effect positive changes on their residency programs that in many situations will result in significant long-term benefits.

The RDoC (CAIR) pre-accreditation questionnaire is **only one tool** that is available to the resident surveyors to help them understand the resident on-the-ground perspective on his/her training.

**The results are confidential and only shared with the resident surveyors who can convey, in conversation with the Chair of the Survey team, the anonymous, collated themes which will help the team during the on-site visit.**



**Thank you!**

**Any questions?**

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