

Critical Care Requirement for Pediatric Surgery Fellowships Consideration for Exceptions Review Committee for Surgery

The Review Committee for Surgery understands there is some confusion in the community about how it will manage the exception to the critical care requirement for individual fellows. At the time the requirements were approved, the Review Committee assumed that the circumstance around each program/fellow would be unique and would need to be evaluated as requests were received. It would be impossible to define all the possible exceptional circumstances, so by not setting rigid parameters, the Committee hoped to provide for maximum flexibility and minimal burden on programs. Therefore, the following guidance was included in the Specialty-Specific Background and Intent of the Program Requirements proceeding IV.C.7.f):

"Under exceptional circumstances, programs may request an exception to the critical care requirement for individual fellows. One example of a circumstance that would be considered is a program demonstrating an established, pediatric critical care curriculum that exceeds the minimum requirements. Another example of a circumstance that would be considered for exception is a pediatric surgery fellow who has previously completed an ACGME-accredited surgical critical care program with a focus on pediatric critical care and who is American Board of Surgery-eligible or certified in surgical critical care."

For exceptions to Program Requirements IV.C.7.b).(2) and/or IV.C.7.b).(4), a program should:

- Submit a written request, co-signed by the designated institutional official (DIO), for approval of an exceptional circumstance.
 - In the request, provide the rationale and supporting documents as needed.
 - The request should be submitted to Dr. Chris Fox, executive director of the Review Committee for Surgery: cfox@acgme.org.
- Do not copy members of the Review Committee on these requests or discuss requests with members. Per ACGME policy, Review Committee members may not discuss program-specific issues or program-specific requests. Doing so causes conflicts/dualities of interest, which precludes members from reviewing the program.

This process allows the request to be managed as an "interim request," reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Review Committee between meetings. Barring conflicts/dualities of interest, at least one pediatric surgeon from the Review Committee will participate in review of the request.

Direct all questions to Executive Director Dr. Chris Fox: cfox@acgme.org or 312.755.5499.