



AMERICAN BOARD  
OF RADIOLOGY

## Residency Leave Policy

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON: June 2021**

**Review/Retire/Sunset Date: July 2028**

### **Policy:**

The American Board of Radiology (ABR) recognizes that personal wellness and family needs are important considerations during residency and supports residency training that allows for adequate vacation in addition to other leave, including parental, caregiver, and medical leave. This policy establishes the ABR requirements regarding 'Time Off' during accredited residency training programs and its impact on eligibility for Initial Certification and board eligibility (Appendix A).

#### **A. Scope - This policy applies to all residents in:**

1. Diagnostic Radiology, Interventional Radiology, and Radiation Oncology residencies accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).
2. Medical Physics residencies accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP).

#### **B. Standard Training Requirement**

The standard training requirement for Initial Certification is the successful completion of an accredited residency.

Eligibility for Initial Certification also requires:

1. Passing all requisite exams before the end of a candidate's board eligibility window.
2. Residency Program Directors to attest to the resident's successful completion of training, and the resident's competency to practice independently (Appendix B).

#### **C. Time off Allowance**

1. Beginning with the 2021–2022 academic year, residents remain eligible for Initial Certification without an extension of training if Time Off does not exceed an average of eight weeks (40 workdays) per academic year over the duration of the residency (Appendix B).
2. If Time Off exceeds this allowance, the resident must complete an extension of training equal to, at a minimum, the number of excess workdays missed. The length of the extension is determined by the Program Director.

3. Completion of the residency period is a necessary but not sufficient condition for establishing competency. Program Directors must extend training, irrespective of Time Off, if competency has not been achieved.

#### **D. Definition of Time Off**

1. The following are considered Time Off under this policy:
  - i. Vacation
  - ii. Bereavement leave
  - iii. Interview days away from the institution
  - iv. Parental leave
  - v. Caregiver leave
  - vi. Medical leave (sick time)
  - vii. Other leave as determined by the Program Director
2. The following are considered part of residency training and not Time Off:
  - i. Research activities approved as part of the residency by the Program Director
  - ii. Attendance at scientific or educational meetings related to the specialty
  - iii. Days linked to off-hours work (e.g., a Monday off following a weekend call)
  - iv. Workdays performed off-site (e.g., during a pandemic, natural disaster, or similar circumstance)

#### **E. Exceptions**

Residents who began training prior to 2021 may apply, with Program Director approval, for an exemption to this policy.

#### **F. Responsibilities**

1. Residents are responsible for complying with institutional leave policies and ABR certification requirements (Appendix C).
2. Program Directors are responsible for monitoring Time Off, extending training as necessary, and attesting to both completion and competency.
3. Institutions retain discretion to approve or deny leave requests consistent with local rules and ABR policy (Appendix C).

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A – ABMS Guidance**

Per ABMS guidance, this policy applies to training programs of two or more years.

### **Appendix B**

Program Directors may extend training beyond the minimum if competency has not been achieved.

### **Appendix C – Program Discretion and Time Off Parameters**

1. This policy defines Time Off limits only as they pertain to board eligibility.
2. The ABR does not define the amount of leave permitted by programs or institutions. Local policies may be more restrictive.
3. Leaves of absence and vacations may be granted at the discretion of the Program Director and in accordance with institutional rules.
4. Program Directors and Graduate Medical Education (GME) offices may extend training beyond the minimum to allow adequate determination of competency.