



ACGME International

**Advanced Specialty Program Requirements for
Graduate Medical Education in
Pediatric Nephrology
(Pediatrics)**

Reformatted: 1 April 2022
Initial Approval: 1 February 2020

**ACGME International Specialty Program Requirements for
Graduate Medical Education
in Pediatric Nephrology (Pediatrics)**

Int. Introduction

Background and Intent: Programs must achieve and maintain Foundational Accreditation according to the ACGME-I Foundational Requirements prior to receiving Advanced Specialty Accreditation. The Advanced Specialty Requirements noted below complement the ACGME-I Foundational Requirements. For each section, the Advanced Specialty Requirements should be considered together with the Foundational Requirements.

Int. I. Definition and Scope of the Specialty

Pediatric nephrology is the subspecialty that comprises provision of care to infants, children, and adolescents with disorders of the renal system. When providing care, pediatric nephrologists have the capability and experience to understand, diagnose, and manage renal diseases, fluids and electrolytes, and acid-base disorders.

Int. II. Duration of Education

Int. II.A. The educational program in pediatric nephrology must be 36 or 48 months in length.

I. Institution

I.A. Sponsoring Institution

I.A.1. A fellowship in pediatric nephrology must function as an integral part of an ACGME-I-accredited residency in pediatrics.

I.A.1.a) The pediatric nephrology program should be geographically proximate to the affiliated pediatrics residency program.

I.A.2. The educational program in pediatric nephrology must not negatively affect the education of residents in the affiliated pediatrics residency program.

I.B. Participating Sites

See International Foundational Requirements, Section I.B.

II. Program Personnel and Resources

II.A. Program Director

II.A.1. The program director must demonstrate a record of ongoing involvement in scholarly activity.

- II.A.2. The program director must demonstrate a record of mentoring or guiding fellows in the acquisition of competence in the clinical, teaching, research, quality improvement, and advocacy skills pertinent to the discipline.
- II.A.3. The program director must ensure that each fellow:
- II.A.3.a) is provided with mentorship in development of the necessary clinical, educational, scholarship, and administrative skills; and,
 - II.A.3.b) documents experience in procedures.
- II.A.3.b).(1) The program director must ensure that such documentation is available for review.
- II.A.4. The program director must coordinate, with the program directors of the pediatrics residency and other related subspecialty programs, the incorporation of the ACGME-I Competencies into fellowship education to foster consistent expectations for fellows' achievement and faculty members' evaluation processes.
- II.A.5. Meetings with the program directors of the pediatrics residency and all pediatric subspecialty programs should take place at least semiannually.
- II.A.5.a) There must be documentation of these meetings.
 - II.A.5.b) These meetings should address a departmental approach to common educational issues and concerns that may include core curriculum, the ACGME-I Competencies, and evaluation.
- II.A.6. The fellowship program director must have the authority and responsibility to set and adjust the clinical responsibilities and ensure that fellows have appropriate clinical responsibilities and an appropriate patient load.
- II.B. Faculty**
- II.B.1. To ensure the quality of the educational and scholarly activity of the program, and to provide adequate supervision of fellows, there must be at least two faculty members, including the program director.
- II.B.2. Faculty members must encourage and support fellows in scholarly activities.
- II.B.2.a) This must include mentoring fellows in the application of scientific principles, epidemiology, biostatistics, and evidence-based medicine to the clinical care of patients.
 - II.B.2.b) Scholarly activities must be in basic science, clinical care, education, health policy, health services, patient safety, or quality improvement with implications for the field of pediatric nephrology.

II.B.3. Qualified faculty members in the following pediatric subspecialties must be available for the education of fellows:

- II.B.3.a) adolescent medicine;
- II.B.3.b) developmental-behavioral pediatrics;
- II.B.3.c) neonatal-perinatal medicine;
- II.B.3.d) pediatric cardiology;
- II.B.3.e) pediatric critical care medicine;
- II.B.3.f) pediatric emergency medicine;
- II.B.3.g) pediatric endocrinology;
- II.B.3.h) pediatric gastroenterology;
- II.B.3.i) pediatric hematology-oncology;
- II.B.3.j) pediatric infectious disease;
- II.B.3.k) pediatric pulmonology; and,
- II.B.3.l) pediatric rheumatology.

II.B.4. The faculty should also include the following specialists with substantial experience in treating pediatric problems:

- II.B.4.a) anesthesiologist(s);
- II.B.4.b) child and adolescent psychiatrist(s);
- II.B.4.c) child neurologist(s);
- II.B.4.d) medical geneticist(s);
- II.B.4.e) ophthalmologist(s);
- II.B.4.f) pathologist(s);
- II.B.4.g) pediatric surgeon(s);
- II.B.4.h) pediatric urologist(s);
- II.B.4.i) radiologist(s); and,
- II.B.4.j) transplant surgeon(s).

II.B.5. Consultants should be available in adult nephrology for transition care of young adults.

II.C. Other Program Personnel

II.C.1. To ensure multidisciplinary and interprofessional practice in pediatric nephrology, the following personnel with pediatric focus and experience should be available:

- II.C.1.a) child life therapist(s);
- II.C.1.b) dialysis support staff;
- II.C.1.c) dietitian(s);
- II.C.1.d) mental health professional(s)
- II.C.1.e) nurse(s);
- II.C.1.f) pharmacist(s);
- II.C.1.g) physical and occupational therapist(s);
- II.C.1.h) respiratory therapist(s);
- II.C.1.i) school and special education liaison(s);
- II.C.1.j) social worker(s); and,
- II.C.1.k) speech and language therapist(s).

II.D. Resources

- II.D.1. There must be facilities for renal replacement therapy, renal biopsy, and renal transplantation.
- II.D.2. Facilities and services, including comprehensive laboratory, pathology, and imaging services, must be available.
- II.D.3. The program must have access to laboratories to perform testing specific to pediatric nephrology.
- II.D.4. An adequate number and variety of pediatric nephrology patients ranging in age from newborn through young adulthood must be available to provide a broad experience for fellows.
- II.D.4.a) A sufficient number of patients must be available in inpatient and outpatient settings to meet the educational needs of the program.

III. Fellow Appointment

III.A. Eligibility Criteria

III.A.1. Prior to appointment in the program, fellows should have completed an ACGME-I-accredited residency program in pediatrics, or a pediatric residency program acceptable to the Sponsoring Institution's Graduate Medical Education Committee.

III.B. Number of Fellows

See International Foundational Requirements, Section III.B.

IV. Specialty-Specific Educational Program

IV.A. ACGME-I Competencies

IV.A.1. The program must integrate the following ACGME-I Competencies into the curriculum.

IV.A.1.a) Professionalism

IV.A.1.a).(1) Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and an adherence to ethical principles.

IV.A.1.b) Patient Care and Procedural Skills

IV.A.1.b).(1) Fellows must provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

IV.A.1.b).(1).(a) Fellows must demonstrate competence in the clinical skills needed in pediatric nephrology, including:

IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(i) providing consultation, performing a history and physical examination, making informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions that result in optimal clinical judgement, and developing and carrying out management plans;

IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(ii) providing transfer of care that ensures seamless transitions, counseling patients and families, using information technology to optimize patient care, and providing appropriate role modeling and supervision;

- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(iii) providing for or coordinating care for patients with complex and chronic diseases with the appropriate physician and/or agency;
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(iv) promoting emotional resilience in children, adolescents, and their families through:
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(iv).(a) providing care that is sensitive to the developmental stage of the patient with common behavioral and mental health issues, and the cultural context of the patient and patient's family; and,
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(iv).(b) demonstrating the ability to refer and/or co-manage patients with common behavioral and mental health issues along with appropriate specialists when indicated.
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(v) evaluating the psychosocial aspects of life-threatening and chronic diseases as they affect the patient and patient's family, and to counsel both acutely and chronically ill patients and their families; and,
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(vi) preventing, evaluating, and managing:
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(vi).(a) acute electrolyte and kidney disorders, including hypertension and disorders of the urinary tract;
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(vi).(b) chronic electrolyte and kidney disorders, including hypertension and disorders of the urinary tract; and,
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(a).(vi).(c) end-stage renal disease and kidney transplant.
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(b) Fellows must be able to competently perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential for the practice of pediatric nephrology. Fellows must:
- IV.A.1.b).(1).(b).(i) competently use and interpret the results of laboratory tests, imaging, and other diagnostic procedures; and,

IV.A.1.b).(1).(b).(ii)	demonstrate the necessary procedural skills and develop an understanding of the indications, risks, and limitations of kidney-related procedures, including native and transplant kidney biopsy, acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis, acute and chronic hemodialysis, and continuous renal replacement therapy.
IV.A.1.c)	Medical Knowledge
IV.A.1.c).(1)	Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of:
II.A.1.a).(1).(a)	biostatistics, clinical and laboratory research methodology, study design, preparation of applications for funding and/or approval of clinical research protocols, critical literature review, principles of evidence-based medicine, ethical principles involving clinical research, and teaching methods.
IV.A.1.d)	Practice-based Learning and Improvement
IV.A.1.d).(1)	Fellows must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning.
IV.A.1.e)	Interpersonal and Communication Skills
IV.A.1.e).(1)	Fellows must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.
IV.A.1.e).(1).(a)	Fellows must demonstrate leadership skills to enhance team function, the learning environment, and/or health delivery system/environment with the ultimate intent of improving care of patients.
IV.A.1.f)	Systems-based Practice

IV.A.1.f).(1) Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, including the social determinates of health, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to produce optimal care.

IV.B. Regularly Scheduled Educational Activities

IV.B.1. Fellows must have a formally structured educational program in the clinical and basic sciences related to pediatric nephrology.

IV.B.1.a) The program must utilize didactic experiences, such as lectures, seminars, case discussions, journal clubs, and clinical experience.

IV.B.1.b) Pediatric nephrology conferences must occur regularly and must involve active participation by the fellows in planning and implementation.

IV.B.1.c) Fellow education must include instruction in:

IV.B.1.c).(1) basic and fundamental disciplines, as appropriate to pediatric nephrology, such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, embryology, pathology, microbiology, pharmacology, immunology, genetics, and nutrition/metabolism;

IV.B.1.c).(1).(a) The program must offer instruction, through courses, workshops, seminars, and laboratory experience, to educate fellows in laboratory diagnostic techniques, radiologic imaging, renal development and physiology, pathophysiology, immunopathology, cell and molecular biology, and genetics.

IV.B.1.c).(2) pathophysiology of disease, reviews of recent advances in clinical medicine and biomedical research, and conferences dealing with bioethics, complications, end-of-life care, palliation and death, and the scientific, ethical, and legal implications of confidentiality and informed consent; and,

IV.B.1.c).(2).(a) This should include relationships between physicians and with patients, patients' families, allied health professionals, and society at large.

IV.B.1.c).(3) the economics of health care and current health care management issues, such as cost-effective patient care, practice management, preventive care, population health, quality improvement, resource allocation, and clinical outcomes.

IV.B.1.c).(3).(a) Fellow education should include the system-based aspects of the economics, regulations, and practice management issues involved with dialysis and renal transplantation.

IV.C. Clinical Experiences

IV.C.1. Fellows must participate in the management of care for patients with renal and other related disorders in the intensive care unit setting.

IV.C.2. Fellows must have longitudinal responsibility for providing care to a panel of patients, throughout their educational program, that is supervised by one or more members of the pediatric nephrology faculty.

IV.C.2.a) This must include longitudinal care of outpatients.

IV.C.2.b) The panel of patients must be representative of the types of renal disorders fellows are likely to encounter once they complete the educational program.

IV.C.3. Fellow education must include experience serving as a role model and providing supervision to residents and/or medical students.

IV.D. Scholarly Activity

IV.D.1. Fellows' Scholarly Activity

IV.D.1.a) The program must have a core curriculum in research and scholarship.

IV.D.1.a).(1) Where appropriate, the curriculum should be a collaborative effort involving all pediatric subspecialty programs at the institution.

IV.D.1.b) The program must provide a Scholarship Oversight Committee for each fellow to oversee and evaluate the fellow's progress as related to scholarly activity.

IV.D.1.b).(1) Where applicable, a fellow's Scholarship Oversight Committee should be a collaborative effort involving other pediatric subspecialty programs or other experts.

IV.D.1.c) Each fellow must design and conduct a scholarly project in pediatric nephrology with guidance from the fellowship director and a designated mentor. The designated mentor must:

IV.D.1.c).(1) be approved by the fellow's Scholarship Oversight Committee; and,

IV.D.1.c).(2) have expertise in the fellow's area of scholarly interest, either as a faculty member in pediatric nephrology or through collaboration with other departments or divisions.

IV.D.1.d) Fellows' scholarly experience must begin in the first year and continue for the entire length of the educational program.

IV.D.1.d).(1) The experience must be structured to allow development of requisite skills in research and scholarship, and provide sufficient time for project completion, and presentation of results to the Scholarship Oversight Committee.

IV.D.2. Faculty Scholarly Activity

See International Foundational Requirements, Section IV.D.2.

V. Evaluation

See International Foundational Requirements, Section V.

VI. The Learning and Working Environment

See International Foundational Requirements, Section VI.