

## Information and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Pediatric Anesthesiology Fellowship Match

The Pediatric Anesthesiology Program Directors' Association, under the sponsorship of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia, has used the NRMP Match process since 2013. More than 85% of fellowship positions are committed to the Match; moreover, programs have agreed that out of match positions should only be offered in rare circumstances including (1) 2-year contracts, (2) international candidates who are not NRMP-eligible, and (3) separately-funded military positions who are not NRMP-eligible.

### General Annual Calendar:

- **December 1st:** ERAS opens for submitting fellowship applications, acquiring a letters of reference file and associated materials to complete an ERAS application file. Please note the special personal statement questions requested by pediatric fellowship programs.
- **February onwards:** Program directors (varying timelines) begin application review and make interview offers. Programs have committed to interview dates through at least June of each year. However, it is best to apply as soon as you are decided.
- **May 31<sup>st</sup>:** ERAS closes to new applications. Enter applications before this date into ERAS. After May 31, please contact individual programs to see if they are still accepting applications outside of ERAS and to obtain an application.
- **June:** The NRMP site opens for registration of both residents and programs (Please go to NRMP.org for exact dates)
- **August:** Applicants and programs can begin submitting their rank lists (Please go to NRMP.org for exact dates)
- **September:** Final Rank Lists must be submitted to the NRMP (Please go to NRMP.org for exact dates)
- **October:** Match Day! (Please go to NRMP.org for exact dates)

### Frequently Asked Questions:

*Where can I go to learn more about the Pediatric Anesthesia Match?*

The NRMP (NRMP.org) and ERAS ([www.aamc.org/services/eras/](http://www.aamc.org/services/eras/)) will post details about the Match, including a timeline, on their websites. The Society for Pediatric Anesthesia (SPA), and Society for Academic Anesthesiology Associations (SAAA) websites will also have information and links.

*Who is eligible to enter the Fellowship Match, and when is this occurring?*

The Match is for current CA-2 trainees (or equivalent) or anyone who will have completed anesthesia residency and be ready to enter fellowship in the summer 12-18 months away from the ERAS application submission. Note that many fellowships are now starting on August 1 to allow time for Advanced ABA Exam studying and moving prior to start of fellowship.

*I am off the academic cycle due to approved leave, so I will finish residency after June 30. Am I still*

### *eligible to participate in the Match?*

You may be able to participate. First, many programs do not start until August 1 due to past fellow requests. Second, many programs are willing to allow an off-cycle start for candidates they really want. Please check with the programs you are interested in BEFORE you spend money on ERAS/NRMP and commit to interviews. Keep in mind that NRMP policy is based on your ability to start within the program start date/time frame. In the event you match to a program and can't honor the scheduled start date, the program can receive a waiver and withdraw your position. It is best to inquire with individual programs ASAP.

### *When can I start interviewing?*

Fellowships have agreed not to begin fellowship interviews until April of each year. You do not need to be registered with NRMP in order to interview, but you are expected to register with NRMP when it opens. If you accept an out of match position (see above) you are required to cancel interviews and notify programs at which you have interviewed that you are withdrawing immediately from consideration.

### *What if I want to cancel my interview?*

It is unprofessional to cancel an interview with less than 2-3 weeks notice, because programs commit a great deal of resources to making interviews possible and they will need time to find another eligible candidate to interview in your spot. However, if you accept an out of match offer, it is best to notify other potential programs and cancel interviews to avoid wasting your (and their) time and money. Please see above for the specific exceptions during which programs may offer an out of match spot. If you accept an outside of match position, you MUST also withdraw from the NRMP Match in a timely manner.

### *What happens if I change my mind about the fellowship after the Match?*

The Match is a binding commitment. Accepting a spot makes the position unavailable to others, and a withdrawal creates significant problems for the fellowship program as well as potential legal consequences for you. If you do not intend to accept your matched position, you must request a waiver from the NRMP. If the waiver is denied and you do not accept the matched positions, the NRMP may apply sanctions, including barring you from future matches. In addition, you may be ineligible to apply in other fellowship specialties, and your medical school may be notified and be requested to keep your match violation on permanent file. Note that the Program Director for your matched fellowship program cannot release you; your release must go through the NRMP waiver process.

### *Is there a "Couple's Match"?*

Not officially, but if both partners are in the Pediatric Anesthesia Match many Program Directors will work with you and your partner to give you advice. You should let programs know if you are trying to obtain positions in the same city or at the same hospital.