

Enhanced Skills in Family Medicine – Palliative Care

The Enhanced Skills in Family Medicine – Palliative Care is a coordinated one-year training program that provides the trainee with a broad clinical experience in a variety of institutional and community settings.

It is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and is under the Family Medicine Department at McGill University. Applicants are required to have completed residency in Family Medicine.

The program includes rotations on palliative care services at McGill University's teaching hospitals.

Rotating through these settings, the trainee develops clinical skills in dealing with pain and symptom management situations, as well as the psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs of terminally-ill patients and their families. The trainees sees patients who have access to the full spectrum of cancer care from diagnosis, to cure, to terminal care. Non-cancer patients with challenging symptom control problems are also seen. Those residents who will not have had previous exposure to medical oncology or radiation oncology will have to do a mandatory month in each of these. There is one selective which must take place in a palliative care service of the resident's choice and two electives. These three rotations are designed to complement the previous clinical experiences and respond to the resident's anticipated career needs.

The resident will be able to:

- Develop expertise dealing with pain, symptom management, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs of those with advanced life-threatening illnesses to be able to provide primary and consultant palliative care services.
- Gain experience on inpatient units, consultation service, home care and clinics.
- Pursue basic academic and research goals with a network of residents and professionals across Canada.

The overall goals of the program are to:

1. To train family physicians with added competency in the area of palliative medicine who will provide primary and consultant palliative care services.
2. To provide clinical and basic academic training for family physicians who will be going on to academic careers in palliative medicine.

Trainees are mandated to do family medicine clinics as part of their year with us. It is possible to do an elective in family medicine in addition to, or in place, of this.

As part of the Enhanced Skills PGY3 year, residents must learn to search the scholarly literature, read it critically within the limits of their scientific training, understand research ethics in Canada, and conduct and communicate a scholarly project. The program offers three options for the scholarly project. The scholarly project component of the program must be judged to be satisfactory for successful completion of the program.

To learn more about our program please visit:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/familymed/education/postgrad/enhancedskillsprograms/pc>

For more information please contact:

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[Karen French](#), Student Affairs Coordinator

To apply, please see the CaRMS website: <https://www.carms.ca/match/family-medicine-enhanced-skills-match/>

Please refer to the CaRMS website for details pertaining to the application period.