

Guidelines to implement the District Residency Programme (DRP) in the State of Karnataka

INTRODUCTION

As per the National Medical Commission (NMC), Post Graduate Medical Education Regulation 2000 (PGMER-2000) provides for three months the District Residency Programme (DRP) in the District Health System (DHS) for Medical Postgraduate students. These provisions were made by notification dated 16.09.2020. As per the Regulations, the District Residency Programme has been made mandatory in Government Health Facilities of Health and Family Welfare Services for three months and the rotation of students is to be done in the 3rd or 4th or 5th semester of the Postgraduate programme.

It is informed that the National Level steering committee chaired by President, PGMEB has decided that:

- i. The DRP is mandatory for all the Medical Postgraduate students admitted in the 2021 batch onwards.
- ii. The DRP is also mandatory for Medical Postgraduate students admitted to private Medical Colleges and Deemed Universities. The concerned states' Directorate of Medical Education (DME) is fully empowered to direct the private Medical Colleges and Deemed Universities under their jurisdiction to implement the DRP so that the students admitted there are not deprived of this programme.
- iii. The DRP is a new initiative and it will be flexible based on the requirements and necessary modifications in the regulations can be suggested.

The major components of the Postgraduate curriculum as per NMC are Theoretical knowledge, Practical and clinical skills, Thesis skills, Attitudes including Communication skills, and Training in research methodology.

To the above, a sixth component is added: "speciality training at District Hospital/ similar institutions providing health care at secondary level" and hence, the District Residency Programme.

The necessity of incorporating the District Residency Programme as an essential component of the postgraduate medical training curriculum arose to adhere to two basic tenets of Medical Education:

- a. The learning experiences have to be derived from and targeted to the needs of the community.
- b. The Postgraduates have to be trained in various settings including those close to the community.

GOALS OF DRP TRAINING -

- The Primary goals of the Programme are:
 - i. To expose the postgraduate resident to the District Health System (DHS) and involve them in all levels of health care services.
 - ii. To acquaint residents with the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of outcomes of National Health Programmes.
 - iii. To orient the resident to promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services being provided by various other categories of healthcare professionals under the umbrella of the National Health Mission.
- A secondary goal of the programme is also to reinforce medical manpower at the DHS levels and expand the range and quality of services currently provided therein.

All postgraduates have to mandatorily undergo the DRP training for three (03) months and complete it satisfactorily, irrespective of the type of institution where they are pursuing their post-graduation course (Medical Colleges/ Institutes run by the Central Government, State government, Autonomous bodies/ Deemed Universities, Armed Forces, ESI Corporation, etc.) or the type of seat they are occupying (Management Quota/ NRI or any other type of seat) to be eligible to appear in the final examinations of their speciality.

The District Residency Programme (DRP) is implemented in the current academic session from April 2023 to March 2024 across the state for the 2020-21 admitted batch of postgraduates and the following are the guidelines suggested for smooth implementation of the DRP Programme.

GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT RESIDENCY PROGRAMME (DRP)

I. DRP Nodal Officers at the State (HFWs and DME)--

1. The Deputy Director (e-Health) from the Health and Family Welfare Services and Joint Director (DME) from the Directorate of Medical Education are nominated as State DRP Nodal Officers. They shall jointly in coordination be responsible for scheduling and regulating DRP training within the state.

Contact details of State DRP Nodal Officers-

- Deputy Director (e-Health),
6th Floor, East Wing, Arogya Soudha,
Health and Family Welfare Services,
Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023
Phone - 080-23295621/23
Email - ddehospital-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
- Joint Director, Directorate of Medical Education
Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute (Old Building)
Fort, K R Road, Bengaluru - 560002
Phone - 080-22876803
Email - jd.dmekarnataka@gmail.com

2. The decisions for requests received for DRP Postings from the other state DRP trainees shall be at the discretion of the State Government.
3. The State DRP Nodal Officers shall jointly monitor the implementation of the DRP in the State and shall take necessary measures for the smooth running of the Programme.
4. The Medical Colleges can contact the State DRP Nodal Officers for any clarifications and guidance on DRP implementation.
5. A grievances committee shall be formed at the State level under the joint chairmanship of the Director, HFWs and Director, DME. The members of the committee shall be Joint Director (Medical - HFWs), Joint Director (DME), Deputy Director (e-Health, HFWs) and Deputy Director (DME).
6. Any DRP grievances requiring attention at the State Level shall be addressed to the State DRP Nodal Officer, HFWs.
7. The DRP review meetings shall be held at the State level under the chairmanship of the Commissioner every 6 months.

II. DRPCoordinators at the District –

1. The District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) is identified as the DRP Coordinator (DRPC) at the District level.
2. A Coordination Committee (CC) shall be formed at the District Level consisting of District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO), District Surgeon (DS)/Medical Superintendent (MS), Administrative Medical Officers (AMO) and Specialty heads of District Hospital. The CC shall consult with the Medical College DRP Nodal Officer to prepare the DRP trainee timetable for postings to minimize overlaps of training undergone at Medical Colleges and expose them to the District Health System and National Health Programmes.
3. The Medical Colleges may be given the option to choose the nearest Health Facilities for postings of DRP trainees. In situations where two or more Medical Colleges opt for the same Health Facilities, the decision to map the Health Facilities to the Medical Colleges will be as per the discretion of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO).
4. The DRP Coordinator at district is to receive the list of DRP trainees from the DRP Nodal Officer of concerned Medical Colleges and then in consultation with the Coordination Committee (CC) make the roster of the DRP trainees as per speciality and schedule the postings to the Health Facilities before the beginning of DRP postings and share with the respective Medical Colleges.
5. The 2nd year Medical Postgraduates will be referred to as DRP trainees under the District Residency Programme.
6. The DRP Coordinator shall allot the DRP trainees based on the availability of the DRP trainee's speciality to each Health Facility.
7. The DRP trainee's place of posting can be flexible irrespective of their speciality to meet the goals of the DRP (District Hospital/Taluka Hospitals/Community Health Centers/Primary Health Centers).
8. The DRP trainees shall be posted to all the levels of the District Health System (DH//SDH/TH/CHC/PHCs) and other similar Health Facilities/Health Programmes in DHO office and at Arogya Soudha at state level by DRPCoordinator. The DRP trainees shall be posted for **One month under National Health Programmes and Two months of departmental posting of their respective subject** at the Health Facility.

Below is the list of speciality-wise postings-

Postings of DRP trainees in the Health Facilities		
Sl. No	Speciality	Departments
1	Anatomy	Namma Clinics/ Casualty Medical Officer/ Medical Officer Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC)/ Medical Officer Primary Health Centre (PHC)
2	Physiology	
3	Forensic Medicine	
4	Family Medicine	
5	Nuclear Medicine	
6	Radiotherapy	
7	Biochemistry	Namma Clinics/ Casualty Medical Officer/ Medical Officer Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC)/ Medical Officer Primary Health Centre (PHC)/Laboratory services/ Genomic Laboratory/ Blood bank/ Blood Donation camp/ Haemophilia Unit
8	Microbiology	
9	Pathology	
10	Immunohematology	
11	Transfusion Medicine	
12	Community Medicine	Namma Clinics/ Casualty Medical Officer/ Medical Officer Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC)/ Medical Officer Primary Health Centre (PHC)/Assistance to District Programme Officers in implementing National Health Programmes
13	Pharmacology	Namma Clinics/ Casualty Medical Officer/ Medical Officer Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC)/ Medical Officer Primary Health Centre (PHC)/Pharmacy and stores
14	General Medicine	General Medicine

15	OBG	OBG
16	Paediatrics	Paediatrics
17	Pulmonary Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine/ General Medicine
18	Orthopaedics	Orthopaedics
19	Radio Diagnosis	Radio Diagnosis
20	Anaesthesia	Anaesthesia
21	General Surgery	General Surgery
22	Psychiatry	Psychiatry
23	Ophthalmology	Ophthalmology
24	Emergency Medicine	Emergency Medicine/ General Medicine.
25	Dermatology	Dermatology
26	ENT	ENT
27	Geriatric Medicine	Geriatric Medicine/ General Medicine
28	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation/ Orthopaedics

9. The DRP Coordinator can post the DRP trainees directly to Namma Clinics and other similar Health Facilities for pre-clinical and Para-clinical DRP trainees. The Community Medicine Postgraduate DRP trainees can be posted to assist the District Programme Officers in implementing the National Health Programmes.
10. The DRP Coordinator shall share the scheduled list of postings of DRP trainees with Health Facilities and Medical Colleges for needful information and further actions. The list also should include the name, address and contact details of DRP Officers of Health Facilities.
11. The DRP Coordinator is to receive and orient the DRP trainees on the structure and functioning of the District Health System and then shall issue the movement order to DRP trainees for the Health Facilities of their postings.

12. The DRP Coordinator shall maintain records of the DRP trainees posted from various colleges under DRP and the details shall be shared by the DHOs with the State DRP Nodal Officer, HFWS, Arogya Soudha at the beginning of every DRP posting.
13. The DRP Coordinator shall share the monthly attendance report (RTAS) of DRP trainees with respective Medical Colleges for remuneration/stipend to DRP trainees. If attendance is not marked in RTAS, it shall be considered as absent.
14. The DRP Coordinator is the authority to grant Leaves for DRP trainees. The DRP trainees are entitled to have one Casual Leave per month. In case the leaves exceed the permissible limits and are not sanctioned by the DRP Coordinator, the excess days shall be compensated by repetition of duties at the Health Facility where they are posted.
15. The DRP Coordinator (DRPC) shall issue a certificate of completion (Annexure - 1) to the DRP trainee at the end of three months after verifying the DRP trainee's logbooks along with the attendance from Real Time Attendance System (RTAS) and endorse a copy of the same to the State DRP Nodal Officer (HFWS), State DRP Nodal Officer (DME) and the Dean cum Director/ Principal of the respective Medical colleges. If the completion certificates are provided falsely without verification, the DHO/ DRP Coordinator will be held responsible.
16. To address the minor issues under the District Residency Programme, a grievance committee at District level shall be formed at the District level under the chairmanship of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) and the members being District Surgeon/Medical Superintendent, DRP Nodal Officer of Medical Colleges and Administrative Medical Officers (AMOs)
17. Any DRP grievances requiring attention at the District level shall be addressed to DHO.
18. The DRP review meetings shall be held every 3 months at the District level under the chairmanship of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO) and the meeting proceedings shall be sent to the DRP State Nodal Officer, HFWS.

III. DRP Nodal Officers at Medical Colleges –

1. The Medical Colleges shall identify and nominate a DRP Nodal Officer for the District Residency Programme.

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2. The Medical College DRP Nodal Officer shall provide the List of 2nd Year Postgraduates who will be posted for DRP every year before the beginning of the DRP postings to the State DRP Nodal Officer, HFWS and the State DRP Nodal Officer, DME.
3. The Medical College Nodal Officers shall contact the District Health Officer (DHO) of the respective Districts for mapping of Medical Colleges to Health Facilities of Health and Family Welfare services.
4. The 2nd year Medical Postgraduates (DRP trainees) of all specialties have to be divided into four batches with equal numbers in each batch for DRP postings by the Medical College DRP Nodal Officer.
5. The Medical College DRP Nodal Officer shall issue the posting orders and guide the DRP trainees with the information required for the DRP postings.
6. The Medical College DRP Nodal Officer shall structure the logbook in consultation with NMC for the proper recording of the activities conducted by DRP trainees.

IV. DRP Officers at Health Facilities—

1. The DRP Coordinator shall identify and nominate a DRP Officer (DS/MS/AMO/MO) from each Health Facility for the District Residency Programme.
2. The DRP Officer at the Health Facility is to receive and orient the DRP trainees on the structure and functioning of the Health Facility and National Programmes.
3. The DRP Officer shall allot duties to DRP trainees based on their specialty. If the DRP trainee's specialty is not available, He/ She can be posted to Casualty/General OPDs etc. in the Health Facility.
4. The DRP Officer at the Health Facility shall maintain and share records of each batch of DRP trainees reported from various colleges under DRP with the DRP Coordinator.
5. The DRP trainees can be posted for day/night duties as per the requirements and can treat the patients strictly under the guidance and supervision of a specialist/Medical Officer.
6. The DRP trainees on duty shall be provided duty rooms with basic amenities and adequate security, especially for female DRP trainees during their duties at the Health Facilities.

7. Attendance shall be strictly monitored jointly by the DRP Coordinator and DRP Officer through the Real-Time Attendance System (RTAS). Necessary arrangements shall be made by the DRP Coordinator and DRP Officer for registering the DRP trainees in RTAS.
8. Logbook would be mandatory for DRP trainees to be maintained which shall be assessed and duly signed by the DRP Officer of the Health Facility (DS/MS/AMO/MO) at the end of the DRP training.

V. District Residency Programme Trainees—

Instructions —

1. The DRP trainees shall report to the District Health and Family Welfare Officer (DHO)/DRP Coordinator (DRPC) by the allotted date. They shall carry their posting order from respective medical Colleges, student ID card and Logbook.
2. After receiving the movement order from the DRP Coordinator (DRPC), DRP trainees shall report their postings to the DRP Officer of the Health Facility.
3. Shall mark attendance through the Real-Time Attendance System (RTAS) as per the working hours.
4. The DRP trainees having the same specialty and willingness for mutual transfer must first report at the assigned Health Facility and then submit a joint letter addressed to the State Nodal Officer, HFWS within 1 Week of the allotment of DRP postings. The Place of allotment of both candidates should be mentioned in the letter and shall be signed by both DRP trainees. The reporting letter of the DRP posting shall be enclosed along with a mutual transfer request letter.
5. The DRP trainees requesting for DRP posting at Health Facilities in the State of Karnataka from Medical Colleges of other states shall produce a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Health Department and Directorate of Medical Education (DME) of their respective state and with approval from National Medical Council (NMC).
6. The DRP trainees shall also participate in academic activities being carried out at the parent Medical College. For this, the Medical Colleges as well as District Hospitals establish electronic virtual linkages using modern technology.
7. No fees shall be paid by DRP trainees during the District Residency Programme at the posted Health Facilities.
8. No TA/DA/remuneration shall be provided to the DRP trainees by the Health and Family Welfare Services under the District Residency Programme.

9. The grounds for disciplinary actions for DRP trainees can be the unethical practice of medicine, gross negligence resulting in the compromise of the condition of the patient and insubordination.
10. Any grievances related to DRP postings should be addressed to the DRP Coordinator.

Do's –

1. The DRP trainees shall work under the overall control and supervision of the DRP Officer of the Health Facility where they have been allotted.
2. The DRP trainees shall strictly treat the patients under the supervision of specialists of the respective Health Facilities.
3. The DRP trainees must abide by and conduct by the prevailing standards of the health facility, failing which the DRP trainees might warrant disciplinary actions.
4. The DRP trainees should be committed to the policy of rational drug use and standard prescription practice. The treatment prescriptions should be given from the hospital drug formulary only. It should be in strict compliance with the departmental protocols under the guidance of the Specialists of the Health Facility.
5. DRP trainees shall advise investigations limited to the Health Facility.
6. DRP trainees shall engage in the Surgical/Medical intervention procedures only under the guidance and supervision of a specialist from the Health Facility of their respective DRP postings.

Don'ts -

1. No unauthorized absence from duties during the DRP postings. Such DRP trainees shall be intimated to the DRP Coordinator and DRP Nodal Officer of Medical Colleges.
2. The DRP trainees shall not issue wound certificates, medical certificates, treatment certificates, or any other medicolegal certificates. The DRP trainees shall not handle medico-legal cases, although he/she shall assist the concerned Medical Officer/Specialist in conducting medico-legal cases to gain first-hand exposure and training.
3. DRP trainees shall not engage in private practice of any sort during the DRP. And they shall not refer patients to outside institutions.

VI. Request for change of place for DRP Postings

1. **Within the District:** Postgraduate residents seeking a transfer to a different institution within the district may submit a formal request to the District Health & Family Welfare Officer (DHO) through a written letter. The DHO is authorized to

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- consider and approve such transfers, provided that there is accommodation available at the requested institution and it aligns with the postgraduate resident's request.
2. **Within the state:** Postgraduate residents who wish to transfer within the state must submit a request letter (their applications) using the attached Annexure-2. The Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Services, Government of Karnataka will evaluate these relocation requests, contingent upon obtaining
 - i. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Medical College (Annexure-2) where the postgraduate resident is currently enrolled and
 - ii. A NOC from the MS/DS/AMO of the Institute where he/she would like his/her DRP posting (Annexure-3).
 3. **Transfer to Karnataka:** Postgraduate residents who wish to transfer to an Institute in Karnataka from outside must submit a request letter (their applications) using the attached Annexure-2. The Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare services will evaluate these relocations requests, contingent upon obtaining:
 - i. A No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Medical College (Annexure-2) where the postgraduate resident is currently enrolled and
 - ii. A NOC from the MS/DS/AMO of the institute where he/she would like his/her DRP Posting (Annexure-3)
 - iii. Postgraduate students who choose to pursue such postings outside are solely responsible for applying for positions, obtaining the necessary approvals and appointments at their chosen institute, and managing their travel and accommodation arrangements during the training period. The Commissionerate, Health and Family Welfare Services will not assume any responsibility for, or assist in, the application or appointment process in any way.
 4. **Outside the state:** In the exceptional situations / rarest of the rare cases, the postgraduate resident is permitted to opt for institutions outside Karnataka:
 - i. The Commissioner, Department of Health & Family Welfare Services, Government of Karnataka, is not competent authority to issue No. Objection Certificate for such postings.
 - ii. The PG student shall procure No Objection Certificate from Institute where he/she is studying in the format similar to Annexure-2 or in format as prescribed by the state where he/she would like her DRP posting and get a

NOC from the Director of Medical Education (DME) or an Officer assigned by the DME (Annexure – 4)

- iii. Postgraduate students who choose to pursue postings outside the state are solely responsible for applying for positions, obtaining the necessary approvals and appointments at their chosen institute, and managing their travel and accommodation arrangements during the training period. The Commissionerate, Health and Family Welfare Services will not assume any responsibility for, or assist in, the application or appointment process in any way.

Note –The District Residency Programme being a new initiative, will be flexible. Hence based on the requirements, necessary modifications in the regulations can be suggested.


Commissioner 17.10.23

Health and Family Welfare Services



Annexure – 1

District Residency Programme Completion Certificate
(Post Graduate Medical Education Regulation 2000 - NMC)

This is to certify that Dr _____ Postgraduate
of _____ Department studying in 2nd year (batch 2021-22) at
_____ College posted to _____
District/Taluka/CHC/PHC Hospital Health Facility under the District Residency Programme
(DRP) from _____ to _____.
His/her work and conduct are satisfactory during the 3-month District Residency Programme.

District Health Officer
(DRP Coordinator)

Date:

Place:

Copy to:

1. The State DRP Nodal Officer, HFWS
2. The State DRP Nodal Officer, DME
3. The Dean cum Director/Principal of the Medical College

Annexure – 2

**APPLICATION FOR INTER DISTRICT DRP POSTING/
TRANSFER TO KARNATAKA STATE**

Basic Details		
1	Name of Postgraduate District Resident	
2	Age and Date of Birth	
3	Name of Speciality	
4	Name of the Institute / Medical College	
5	Contact Address including phone – Landline No with STD Code, Mobile Phone and Email ID	
6	Name of the District in which the Institute is located	
5	Preference of District Residency Program Institution	
6	a. District of choice	1. 2.
7	b. Hospital of choice	1. 2.

Signature of the student

_____ Date _____

----- Office -----

Forwarded and Recommended

Signature of Head of the Department

_____ Date _____

Signature of the Institute Nodal Officer

_____ Date _____

Signature of the Dean / Principal of the Institute

_____ Date _____

Annexure – 3

NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

(No Objection certificate to be issued by the Head of Institution / District Health Officer where the Postgraduate Residents is applying for DRP position)

Basic Details		
1	Name of Postgraduate District Resident	
2	Age and Date of Birth	
3	Email id	
4	Department /Speciality	
5	Request for posting outside the State	
6	Details of proposed posting	

I hereby certify that I have no objections to Dr.----- a Postgraduate in -----
----- Department, of-----College/Institution accepting the District Residency
Program training at our ----- Hospital.

Seal and Signature of Nodal Officer
(DHO/MS/DS/AMO)

Annexure – 4

NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

(No Objection certificate to be issued by the Director of Medical Education for transfer outside Karnataka State)

Basic Details		
1	Name of Postgraduate District Resident	
2	Age and Date of Birth	
3	Email id	
4	Department /Speciality	
5	Request for posting outside the State	
6	Details of proposed posting	

It is certify that Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka, have no objections to Dr. _____ aPostgraduate in _____ Department, of _____ College/Institution to do District Residence Programme at _____ state.

Director of Medical Education
Karnataka