



FAQs: Indigenous Student Admissions & Transitions

Why is the goal to have Indigenous physicians represent 10% of physicians in Canada when Indigenous peoples only represent <5% of the population.

- Currently some medical schools seek to have a certain number of seats for Indigenous students that is representative of the population. This is a problematic approach as it does not consider the chronic under representation for the last 1.5 centuries. The Indigenous populations are the fastest going populations in Canada therefore staggered growth in the number of Indigenous physicians needs to begin now to ensure proper support and resources are available to Indigenous students.

What could an additional Indigenous specific portal provide?

- Current Indigenous Identity verification processes are important as there continues to be a growing number of individuals in positions of power participating in Indigenous identity fraud, however these processes can also be quite onerous on the applicant as well as Indigenous communities as they are often asked to provide multiple letters of support for one student applying to multiple schools.

What is a Community Obligation Clause?

- A Community Obligation Clause is a policy to support students throughout the entirety of their formal medical training in obtaining extended absence clearance for a minimum of one or more days and up to four weeks, depending on the case. The intention is to support Indigenous students to travel home to community in the event of bereavement, cultural ceremonies, annual cultural rights, responsibilities and/or duties, and are protected from academic obligations that necessitate community-centred cultural leaves of absence.

Why is it important for Indigenous students participating in CaRMS to have additional geographical considerations?

- Indigenous students looking to continue to residency often face a number of additional barriers to moving at this point of their career. For example, Indigenous students in medical school are often mature students responsible for dependents that complicates the process of moving, in addition, they have additional connections to particularly community and territory which the community envisions them serving.

Why is it critical for Indigenous students transitioning into PGME to have access to cultural support.

- The environmental scan conducted by the NICME of front facing applications process both at the UGME and PGME levels found there was very little considerations of Indigenous content or support at the PGME level. This is problematic as it can make the assumption that Indigenous students are assimilated at this part of their medical journey.

Indigenous Data Reporting Framework

Why is this data important, when we already collect similar data?

- Currently collection of this this particular data without consent violates Indigenous data sovereignty. The NCIME has developed Indigenous data frameworks in addition to policies that ensures that they are on the cutting edge of this emerging field.

Why is Individual consent form necessary?

- Data and research have both been harmfully used against Indigenous peoples in Canada, therefore there is a need for Indigenous peoples to reclaim sovereignty through data. A key consideration of data sovereignty is considering both individual and collective sovereignty. In this case it is important for the applicant to have their own individual sovereignty over how and what their data is being used for.