

6.4 ACCELERATION OF PART-TIME TRAINING IN THE AGPT PROGRAM

6.4.1 Rationale

6.4.1.1 The Censors of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have deemed that experience gained during part-time engagement in the Australian General Practice Training program is effective in developing knowledge and skills. The RACGP Censors have approved a procedure for accelerating credit given for time spent in part-time training. As this is an RACGP responsibility, acceleration of credit is based on the current censorial guidelines on the RACGP website (www.racgp.org.au).

6.4.1.2 This policy complements the *Policy on Full-time and Part-time Engagement in the AGPT program* and should be read in conjunction with that document. Its purpose is to:

- i. outline the processes and considerations used by the RACGP in acceleration of training;
- ii. provide information to the registrar who seeks to have acceleration of credit apply to their part-time training load (refer to the Appendices for the RACGP's acceleration of credit table including an example of its use); and
- iii. assist regional training providers (RTPs) to develop appropriate procedures to support and document the process.

6.4.2 Policy Statement

6.4.2.1 The following principles apply to the implementation of this policy:

- i. registrars will be encouraged to undertake full time training and to obtain vocational registration and move into independent practice; and
- ii. reasonable endeavours will be made to provide part-time training for registrars who genuinely require this flexibility and who meet the defined criteria for eligibility for part-time training.

6.4.2.2 Local processes will be in place to provide information and ensure appropriate documentation regarding acceleration and pro-rata credit in relation to training. These shall include:

- i. directing registrars to current information sources about the RACGP's criteria for eligibility;
- ii. monitoring the impact of acceleration of training on the overall goals of the registrar's learning plan; and
- iii. ensuring that credit for acceleration is recorded in the registrar's training record and on GPET's Interactive Registrar Information System (IRIS) for training management purposes.

Criteria for acceleration

- 6.4.2.3 The minimum number of sessions that can be accelerated is three sessions (or 10.5 hours) per week undertaken in one practice.
- 6.4.2.4 The RACGP requires sufficient coverage/range in four of the five criteria in the following list to be met to be eligible for consideration for acceleration of training. The criteria are based on the registrar seeing an average minimum of 25 patients each week. The criteria are:
- i. gender distribution of patients;
 - ii. age distribution of patient;
 - iii. continuity of care provided;
 - iv. range of clinical experience gained; and
 - v. range of services offered.
- 6.4.2.5 If a registrar sees less than 25 patients per week or if the criteria for acceleration are not satisfied the term is credited on a pro-rata or non-accelerated basis using the formulae and calculation guidelines provided by the RACGP.
- 6.4.2.6 For the purposes of acceleration, calculations to full-time equivalents (FTE) are:
- i. based on sessions worked;
 - ii. calculated on a pro-rata basis;
 - iii. include the AGPT program educational activities attended by the registrar in the stated number of sessions worked; and
 - iv. based on the tables and calculation formulae determined by the RACGP.

Acceleration in basic and advanced terms

- 6.4.2.7 The medical educator must ensure the breadth and depth of the registrar's training experience is adequate to meet learning goals. On this basis the medical educator will:
- i. determine the requirement for a log diary
 - ii. advise the registrar of the documentation and approach required; and
 - iii. make a determination as to appropriate teaching and educational requirements.
- 6.4.2.8 Registrars working part-time are eligible to apply for acceleration if:
- i. documentation is assessed by the medical educator as being satisfactory regarding patient contact in relation to age, sex, continuity of care, clinical experience gained and range of services offered; and
 - ii. they meet the RACGP's criteria for acceleration.

Subsequent GP experience

6.4.2.9 Subsequent GP experience may be accelerated if all of the criteria for acceleration are met.

6.4.2.10 The minimum number of sessions during a subsequent term that can be accelerated is three sessions (or 10.5 hours) per week. These sessions must be undertaken in one practice.

6.4.2.11 If the registrar is working in two accredited practices and at least three sessions are being undertaken in one of them then:

- i. the total number of sessions worked in both practices can be accelerated; and
- ii. each set of log diaries may be used to accelerate up to 12 months of experience as long as the registrar's situation remains unchanged.

6.4.2.12 Registrars seeking acceleration of part-time subsequent general practice experience should:

- i. consult with the RTP medical educator about the requirements involved;
- ii. complete two log diaries, not less than three months apart, which record a typical week's experience, i.e. one in which the usual number of doctors are working in the practice and the normal number of sessions are worked;
- iii. submit two log diaries if working in different practices, one for each practice; and
- iv. adhere to RTP procedures to progress their application for acceleration with the state RACGP Censor.

Required elective units

6.4.2.13 Part-time elective units in general practice can be accelerated (as for subsequent GP experience) if the criteria for acceleration of part-time training in subsequent general practice experience are met.

Pro-rata time

6.4.2.14 If the criteria for acceleration are not satisfied, the number of FTE weeks granted is determined on a pro-rata basis.

RACGP formula and log diary requirements

6.4.2.15 The current RACGP formulae and processes for pro-rata and accelerated training and log diary requirements must be used to apply for acceleration of training or pro-rata credit. The Appendix section contains the formula and an example of its use. Additional resources are available on the vocational training section of the RACGP website (www.racgp.org.au).