Pharmacy Residency Application and Matching Service (PRAMS)

General Information

**Why Have a National Residency Application and Matching Service?**

A national application and matching service provides an orderly process to help applicants obtain positions in programs of their choice and to help programs obtain applicants of their choice. CSHP provides this service to streamline applicant information gathering and optimize matching between residency candidates and Canadian Pharmacy Residency programs. Some of the advantages of the CSHP PRAMS are:

- Provides a standardized and seamless process for applicants to apply to multiple programs.
- Provides a standardized application and notification timeline for all applicants and programs.
- Provides notification of a successful match in early January, helping to facilitate career and other personal planning (i.e. living arrangements, jurisprudence examinations, etc.).
- Promotes equal opportunity among all candidates and increases the likelihood of a mutually desirable match.
- Removes time pressures to make, accept or reject offers.
- Blinds ranking orders, providing unbiased 3rd party matching results.
- Avoids some of the duplicate matches and subsequent inadvertent vacancies (i.e. from individually run provincial matching programs).

**What are the Steps in Successfully Attaining a Residency Position?**

- Applicants and programs register with the PRAMS in the fall of each year.
- Applicants apply directly to the residency programs in which they are interested, according to the single application process.
- Programs evaluate applications and contact residency candidates that they wish to interview.
- After all interviews are completed, each applicant determines their rank order list (i.e. the programs for which he or she is prepared to accept an offer, in order of the applicant's preference.) This list is submitted electronically to the PRAMS.
- Similarly, each program completes a rank order list specifying the applicants to whom it is prepared to offer a position, in order of the program's preference. Each program also indicates the number of positions it has available.

The residency matching service then performs a computerized match according to an “applicant-proposing algorithm”; i.e. it matches first according to the applicants’ choices and secondly according to the programs’ choices. The result of the match is that each applicant and each program receives their most preferred position possible.
WHAT OTHER INFORMATION SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE PRAMS?

In the matching service, both applicants and programs should rank their preferences in order of most-to-least preferred, without consideration for how they will be ranked by the other party. They should only rank choices that they would be fully capable of accepting, if matched to that result. (I.e. Programs may not rank all candidates that they interview. Also, residents may not rank all programs with whom they interviewed). This affords that decisions by applicants regarding accepting or rejecting offers are based on preferences rather than on the likelihood of receiving other offers; and, the possibility of a program receiving acceptances from more applicants than it has positions is eliminated.

Applicants and programs NEVER receive information about the rankings submitted by other applicants and programs. Each applicant is given only the final result obtained in the match. Each program is provided only with the names of the applicants it obtains in the match.

Sometimes, vacant positions will remain after the match, and some applicants will be left unmatched. Information regarding unmatched applicants is provided to programs with unfilled positions. Programs will contact unmatched applicants to fill available positions.

The Canadian Pharmacy Residency Board is responsible for establishing the policies of the matching service and for monitoring the implementation of the matching service. The administration and conduct of the CPRB residency matching service is carried out by the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (National) on behalf of the CPRB.

ELIGIBILITY

Programs

CPRB-accredited and accreditation-pending residency programs are required to participate in the CPRB PRAMS. However, the clinical Masters degree programs in Québec are exempt from this requirement. Accreditation "pending" status means that the program has applied for accreditation and CPRB has been working closely with the program to ensure that the program progresses toward meeting accreditation standards; however, the program has not yet been accredited. Programs with a non-traditional start time (i.e., winter start date and some part-time programs) will be exempt from the match.

Applicants

Any residency program applicant must enrol in the CPRB PRAMS. Applicants must be graduating or have graduated from a CCAPP accredited faculty of pharmacy or otherwise be eligible for licensure in a Canadian province. Applicants participating in the CPRB residency matching service must abide by the policies and rules of the matching service as summarized below.
RULES OF PARTICIPATION

All participating programs and applicants must abide by the schedule of dates of the PRAMS. The schedule can be found on the CSHP website. Participating programs must offer all residency positions through the matching service except for exemptions as described above.

Programs may not make any commitments or offers to, or require any commitments from, any applicant prior to the release of the match results. Programs may rank on their rank order lists only those applicants registered in the matching service. Programs may not disclose ranking information to applicants prior to the matching process.

Similarly, applicants may not make any commitments to, or require any commitments from, any participating program prior to the release of the match results. Applicants may rank on their rank order lists only those programs participating in the matching service.

The identity of all programs to which a given candidate has applied will be disclosed to those programs. Only programs to which a given candidate has applied will have access to that information and the candidate’s application.

Programs may not require that any applicant state how any program will be ranked on the applicant's rank order list. Similarly, applicants may not demand information on how any participating program intends to rank any applicant. The rank order lists submitted by each program and applicant are the sole determinants of their respective order of preferences for the match.

The match results constitute a binding commitment from which neither the applicant nor the program can withdraw without mutual written agreement. A program must offer an appointment to each applicant with whom it is matched, and the applicant must accept the offer from the program, unless both parties agree to release each other from the match result. A program may not offer a position to any applicant who was matched elsewhere and subsequently not released from the match.

Violations of the policies of the residency matching service will be reported to the CPRB. The CPRB may decide to impose a penalty on those who violate the policies, up to and including loss of program accreditation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the CPRB PRAMS, please contact:

CPRB PRAMS
c/o: Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
30 Concourse Gate, Unit #3
Ottawa, Ontario, K2E 7V7
Tel: 613-736-9733, ext. 231
Fax: 613-736-5660
Email: gday@cshp.ca