



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

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FACEM Training Program Site Accreditation

Revisions from 2022

November 2020

Introduction

The revised FACEM Training Program site accreditation system aims to ensure that all sites that offer training for the FACEM Training Program can provide trainees with the resources, education and supervision required for the program.

When site limits were first introduced, they were applied to the four years of Advanced Training in the FACEM Training Program. During 2020, with concurrent revisions to the FACEM Training Program underway, it was important to look at whether the existing time limits were working as intended, or whether they were reducing flexibility for trainees and complicating recruitment for sites.

In addition to this, since the introduction of the Selection into FACEM Training (SIFT) process in 2018, the first year of FACEM training is no longer undertaken on a 'provisional' basis. Instead, formal FACEM training commences at the beginning of the first year. This means that site accreditation limits must now include this first year of training.

From 2022, the revised FACEM Training Program has **four Training Stages**, each with its own defined learning objectives and progression points. From 2022, site accreditation limits will be applied across these four Training Stages.

The aim was to develop a system for both classification and delineation of FACEM training sites that:

For **Trainees:**

- addresses the curriculum
- is flexible
- assumes ownership of training
- builds experience in different types of EDs
- attempts to limit training time at sites where experience is limited

For **sites:**

- is workable
- is transparent
- is fair
- removes barriers to recruitment and retention for regional and rural sites
- provides a leverage tool to advocate for appropriate staffing and resources

For **ACEM:**

- is workable
- is transparent and defensible
- separates accreditation of sites from training requirements

With all this in mind, the College completed a review of the site accreditation and is now preparing to implement these from the 2022 Training Year. This document provides a high-level overview of the major changes. The Accreditation Guidelines will be updated in due course to align with these changes.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the **Site Accreditation Team** on +61 3 9320 0407, or at accreditation@acem.org.au



Dr Barry Gunn

Chair
Council of Education
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

A three-tier system

From 2022, sites will transition to a **three-tier system** of accreditation. We believe this will maximise trainee exposure to patient cohorts, while ensuring adequate FACEM supervision. The three-tier system is based on the current accreditation levels, and continues to use **supervision** and **casemix** to differentiate each tier.

Three tiers is a reduction from the current five tiers of site accreditation

In addition to assessing a site's ability to deliver the essential components of the FACEM Training Program, the accreditation process also recognises a site's capability to **provide appropriate opportunities** for trainees in the site environment. We believe the new system will provide better support to FACEM trainees by identifying sites that offer **varying training experiences**, while assisting FACEM trainees to **make more informed decisions** about where to undertake their training.

The accreditation process also provides sites with an essential leverage tool to **advocate for increased levels of staffing and resources** and is central to ensuring high quality training for our FACEM trainees.

All public adult/mixed sites will either **retain** or **increase** their current minimum accreditation time.

All currently accredited sites will be transitioned to the revised system at the beginning of the 2022 Training Year and will have until January 2024 to meet any new requirements that may be applicable. All sites will be required to comply with the new requirements from the start of 2024.

Current accreditation level	Revised accreditation level
24 months	Tier 1 – 36 months
18 months	
12 months	Tier 2 - 24 months
6 months	
6 months linked site	Tier 3 – 12 months

The revised FACEM Training Program includes at least 42 months of Core ED training. The site limits for each Accreditation Tier apply to all Core ED training across Training Stages 1 to 4 of the revised program. The site limits do not apply to:

- non-ED training time;
- TS4 Elective training time;
- maintenance time; or
- additional training time.

Supervision and Support

Clinical supervision involves clinical oversight of trainees at the point-of-care to ensure patient safety and quality of care, and to assist the trainee in learning specific competencies vital to emergency medicine.

Clinical support involves the training, education and assessment of trainees in the FACEM Training Program. The provision of DENT Clinical Support Time (CST) ensures that Fellows involved in these activities are able to fulfil their roles.

It's worth remembering that during the accreditation process the accreditation team takes into account both the physical layout of the ED and its model of care when determining the appropriate level of FACEM cover. In some cases, a site will be asked for additional information to assist the accreditation team in making recommendations to the Accreditation Subcommittee.

Three tiers of support and supervision

	Fellow Clinical Supervision	DEMT Clinical Support Time (CST)
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 hours per day / 7 days per week• 50% of trainee clinical time• Minimum of two at any one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 hours per week or one hour per trainee per week, whichever is greater
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 hours per day / 7 days per week• 50% of trainee clinical time• Minimum of one at any one time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 hours per week or one hour per trainee per week, whichever is greater
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50% of trainee clinical time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 hours per week

Casemix

The revised site accreditation system will continue to consider **casemix** as part of the accreditation process. Ongoing stakeholder consultation identified that while an appropriate casemix is important to prepare a FACEM trainee for work as a consultant, greater clarity was required around how this is used in the determination of site accreditation limits. We proposed that sites be classified based on presentation numbers and transfers occurring at the site. However, feedback indicated that this might be too simplistic a tool on which to base accreditation decisions. Taking this into consideration, we agreed that while peer comparison data is a useful guide, additional information provided by the site will continue to play a major role in the accreditation process.

Three tiers of casemix

Casemix	
Tier 1	A generally comprehensive casemix and a broad range of acute and complex patients.
Tier 2	A broad range of acute and complex patients. There may be some limitations with respect to the numbers of some patient cohorts.
Tier 3	A broad casemix. There may be some limitations with respect to the numbers of some patient cohorts, and not all cohorts will be routinely encountered.
All Tiers	A generally similar profile to peer sites, across casemix variables and associated resources.

Delineation

ACEM has decided to align with the relevant health system classifications in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. We feel that alignment with these classifications is easier to understand for sites when referring to the ACEM Accreditation process. While ACEM will refer to the relevant national classification systems to inform their classification of training sites, in some cases we may recommend a different classification for a site due to conflicts with casemix, services and acuity that might be expected at the relevant site type. A small number of sites may be reclassified from their current delineation because of this change.

Changes to delineation

Current ACEM Delineation	ACEM Delineation from 2022
Major Referral (MR)	Major Referral (MR)
Urban District (UD) Regional/Rural Base (RR)	Non-Major Referral (Non-MR)
Specialist Paediatrics ED	Specialist children's

Paediatric Emergency Departments

Paediatric Emergency Departments are designated as Specialist Children's or Non-Specialist Children's. The latter includes adult EDs with a co-located but separately accredited Paediatric ED that is accredited for Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) training.

For FACEM training, **all paediatric EDs will be accredited for 12 months of core ED time**. In Training Stage 4 (TS4), trainees may undertake an additional six months of Elective ED time in PEM accredited EDs that have been approved for TS4. TS4 Elective training time is not included in site limits.

The PEM pathway is an additional qualification that may require additional time and accreditation.

Private Emergency Departments

Trainees may undertake a maximum of twelve months of core ED training time at a single private hospital ED. For most private sites, this means that trainees may remain at the site for an additional six months of training time. For other private training sites, there is no change to their training limit.

As there can be a limited exposure to casemix and levels of acuity in Private EDs, the maximum core ED training time that can be completed at a combination of both Tier 3 and private hospital EDs is limited to 18 months.

Other considerations

Training Stage 4

In the revised FACEM Training Program, Training Stage 4 (TS4) comprises six months of core ED training and six months of Elective (ED or non-ED) training that includes a specific focus on leadership and management skills. To be approved to provide TS4 training, sites will need to meet additional accreditation requirements that align to the specific learning outcomes and the training requirements of TS4.

More information on the accreditation requirements for Training Stage 4 will be available from early 2021.

Regional/rural Sites

There will be no reduction in accreditation time for sites accredited as regional or rural. In fact, many sites under this classification will receive an additional six months of core ED training time. If the site is approved for TS4 training, then a further six months of elective ED time may also be undertaken by trainees.

More work is underway to support training in regional and rural sites.

Emergency Medicine Training Networks

An Emergency Medicine Training Network (EMTN) is a group of two or more ACEM-accredited training sites that have formally agreed to provide a coordinated education and training program for FACEM trainees. **There is no change to EMTNs.**



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