Policy Name: UGME Policy on Language Proficiency

Approved By: MDCM Program Committee

Approved On: February 26, 2018

Last Updated: September 7, 2018

Pertinent to: Students

Purpose: Language proficiency expectations essential for the Program and for our students

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. The primary language of instruction in the MDCM Program is English at the Montreal Campus, and French at the Campus Medical Outaouais.

2. Medical students are assigned to both bilingual and francophone clinical sites during their studies. At bilingual clinical sites, the language of documentation in patient charts is French or English and clinical supervision is generally in English. At francophone clinical sites, the language of documentation in patient charts and clinical supervision is French.

3. Medical students will interact with anglophone, francophone and allophone patients and healthcare professionals at both bilingual and francophone clinical sites.

4. Students without adequate language proficiency will not be able to fully participate in learning opportunities in the MDCM Program, and may pose a risk to patient safety.

5. The MDCM Program includes experiences in the clinical setting beginning in the first year of the Program and is unable to teach language skills as part of the MDCM Program curriculum.

POLICY

Beginning with students admitted in 2019, the MDCM Program will undertake the testing of language proficiency at admission to the Program. This will allow the program to identify students who may benefit from resources to improve their language skills to succeed in the program and safely care for patients. The results of language tests will not be used to exclude students from admission to the program.