



DAGMEC Training Manual for Residency Management Suite (RMS) by New Innovations

Revised 11/1/2006 with
new information
released by Medicare.
Changes are underlined.

TOPIC: **Initial Program**
LOCATED: Personnel Data > Basic Information
IMPORTANCE: High! Required field for **all** current residents.

The demographic field labeled *Initial Program* is a required field that must be entered for all current residents. This data drives the IRIS (Intern Resident Information System) report that results in Medicare funds for the hospitals.

What is the *initial program*? It is the first residency program that a resident enters in their training in the United States. The initial program does not change for a resident, regardless of their movement from one program to another. (See exceptions below for Transitional or Preliminary residents.)

Examples: • A resident that accepts a position in an Ob/Gyn program following their medical school graduation always has Obstetrics & Gynecology as their initial program. Even if that resident only does one year, then accepts/matches to a different program the next year. • If a resident starts and completes a Family Practice program, then decides that they really want to be a surgeon and starts over as a surgery resident, the initial program is still Family Practice.

Exceptions: Residents that match into Transitional/General Internship programs and **SIMULTANEOUSLY** (key word!!) match into another program (such a Dermatology or Radiology), the initial residency program is set as the “board eligible” program from the beginning. If they do not match simultaneously, the initial program is Transitional Year or General Internship. When they pursue another GME program, their initial program changes when they accept an appointment in a specialty that will lead to board certification. That first year of training DOES COUNT as part of the Medicare approved years. Changing the initial program is only done for residents that match to the specific code for these one-year programs, and not for a resident that match to a categorical position and then choose to complete only one year.

For residents that match into the Preliminary/General Surgery program: That IRP becomes their initial program and remains their initial program throughout their GME training – it never changes! It has a value of five years. So, if after the preliminary year, they match into another specialty, they stay as a categorical in general surgery, or they leave to fulfill a military obligation – their initial program will always be Preliminary/General Surgery with an IRP value of five.

Program Code: RMS has all the programs and codes on the pull-down menu in the software. The codes in the 1000 and 2000 series are allopathic (M.D./ACGME accredited) program codes; and those in the 3000 series are the osteopathic (D.O./AOA accredited) codes. The code refers to the accreditation of the program, not the resident.

How does the initial program affect reimbursement? When residents enter their GME training, Medicare assigns a certain number of training years to that resident, and will only reimburse for that number of years. If a resident changes specialties, their reimbursement for years beyond the initial program is reimbursed at a reduced rate. Our friends in Medical Education and hospital finance must report accurate data.

Note: The term “resident” is used in its generic term to mean any trainee – intern, resident or fellow.