

## Waiver Review Case Summaries

Below are examples of waiver reviews conducted by the NRMP. They are intended to help Match participants understand the NRMP's policies and procedures and to highlight relevant sections of Match Participation Agreements that govern the Main Residency Match. These examples are illustrative only and are not meant to be an exhaustive list of the types of reviews conducted by the NRMP. Review the [terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement](#) for additional information.

### I. Waiver Granted-Applicant:

After the Main Residency Match, Dr. Jane Doe wrote to the NRMP and requested a waiver of her commitment to a Dermatology program. Dr. Doe, a U.S. allopathic senior student, learned after the Match that her father had been diagnosed with cancer, and she felt it necessary to return home to care for him. The NRMP initiated a waiver review and requested information from the director of the program to which Dr. Doe had matched and from her medical school official.

**In such a case, the NRMP would approve the waiver request. Per Section 2.5 below, the NRMP is authorized to grant a waiver in cases of unanticipated serious and extreme hardship. A significant medical issue for the applicant or applicant's immediate family could be serious, and the NRMP would consider it unanticipated if the issue was unknown to the applicant at the time of the rank order list deadline**

#### 2.5 Waiver of the Match Results: Applicants

*The NRMP, in its sole discretion, may grant to an applicant a waiver of the binding commitment to a program if the NRMP determines that the fulfillment of the commitment to the results of the Main Residency Match would cause **unanticipated serious and extreme hardship** to the applicant. An applicant who matched to or accepted an advanced position also may request a waiver if the applicant has elected to change specialties, provided the waiver is requested no later than December 15 prior to the start of training. The applicant must request the waiver in writing and must send the request to the NRMP with a copy to the program to which the applicant matched or in which the applicant accepted a position. The NRMP will investigate the waiver request to determine whether or not the waiver shall be granted.*

### II. Waiver Denied-Applicant:

After the Main Residency Match, Dr. Bruce Wayne wrote to the NRMP to request a waiver of his commitment to a Pediatrics program. After Match Day, he had learned of an open position in Orthopaedic Surgery and he wanted to apply. The NRMP initiated a waiver review and contacted Dr. Wayne matched program for information. The waiver request was denied.

**In such a case, the NRMP would deny the waiver request. Per Section 2.5 below, the NRMP will approve a waiver based on change of specialty provided the request is made for an advanced PGY-2 position that commences the year after the Match. Applicants who match to PGY-1 categorical or preliminary programs in the year of the Match do not qualify for waivers based on change of specialty.**

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### III. Waiver Denied-Applicant:

After the Main Residency Match, Dr. Hermione Granger, an osteopathic medical school senior student, wrote to the NRMP and requested a waiver of her commitment to an Emergency Medicine program. Dr. Granger had signed a contract during the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Scramble for a position to begin training on July 2015 and had not withdrawn from the Match before the NRMP Rank Order List Certification Deadline. The waiver request was denied.

In such a case, the NRMP would deny the waiver request. Per Section 2.4.2 below, independent applicants, including students and graduates of osteopathic medical schools (D.O.s), can accept non-Match positions; however, accepting a non-Match position means the independent applicant must withdraw from the Main Residency Match by the Rank Order List Deadline. Moreover, although Section 2.4.3 below stipulates that NRMP will ensure applicants who match in the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Match do not also match to a concurrent year position in the NRMP, D.O. applicants should not assume they will be withdrawn from the Main Residency Match for accepting a position through the AOA Scramble. Obtaining a post-Match AOA position is NOT obtaining a position through the AOA Match, and those who obtain post-Match positions are NOT automatically withdrawn from the Main Residency Match.

#### 2.4.2 Withdrawal of Independent Applicants

*Independent applicants may withdraw from the Main Residency Match, but only if the NRMP receives their withdrawal request prior to the rank order list certification deadline through the R3 system. Applicants who accept a concurrent year residency position outside the Main Residency Match or through any other national matching plan shall withdraw from the Main Residency Match. Failure to withdraw from the Main Residency Match prior to the rank order list certification deadline shall be a breach of this Agreement and may subject the applicant to the penalties described in Section 8.0. Applicants in the Main Residency Match are prohibited from applying for, discussing, interviewing for, or accepting a position through any other national matching plan or by agreement outside the Main Residency Match after the rank order list certification deadline.*

#### 2.4.3 Withdrawal of Applicants by the NRMP

*(e) Applicants registered in both the American Osteopathic Association ("AOA") matching service and the Main Residency Match who match through the AOA Match to a PGY-1 or a PGY-2 position. Individuals who match through the AOA to either a PGY-1 or a PGY-2 position will automatically be ineligible to match to a concurrent year position in the NRMP and will automatically be ineligible to participate in SOAP for a concurrent year position.*

### IV. Waiver Granted-Program:

After the Main Residency Match, the Internal Medicine program at National Medical Center wrote to the NRMP requesting a waiver of its commitment to Dr. Holly Hobbie. Dr. Hobbie had failed to disclose to the program her misdemeanor conviction for driving under the influence, and the program's institutional policies prevented Dr. Hobbie from joining the program. The NRMP initiated a waiver review and requested information from Dr. Hobbie regarding her legal issues.

In such a case, the NRMP would approve the waiver request. Per section 4.4 below, applicants are responsible for providing complete, timely, and accurate information to programs. This policy targets information about, but not limited to visas, prior residency training, and medical school interruptions. It also applies to prior legal issues, malpractice claims, or any other matters that could challenge the sponsoring institution's eligibility requirements or delay issuance of a training license. Information must be disclosed in a timely manner up until the date specified in the appointment contract.

#### 4.4 Completeness, Timeliness, and Accuracy of Information

**Applicants are responsible for the completeness, timeliness, and accuracy of the information provided to programs.** *The submission of information by an applicant during the interview and/or matching process that is false, misleading, incomplete, or plagiarized from another source is a violation of this Agreement.*

#### **V. Waiver Denied-Program:**

After the Main Residency Match, the Pathology program at National Medical Center wrote to the NRMP requesting a waiver of its commitment to Dr. Peter Parker. After Match Day, the program director had obtained additional information about Dr. Parker's prior residency training, and he no longer felt comfortable offering him a position. The NRMP initiated a waiver review and learned that Dr. Parker had not omitted information about his prior residency training on his application to the program and that the new information obtained by the program director had been available prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, when the program could have deleted the Dr. Parker from its rank order list.

**In such a case, the NRMP would deny the waiver request. Per Section 5.1 below, programs are bound to train any applicant with whom they match. Accordingly, the NRMP expects programs to exercise due diligence and fully vet the candidacy of an applicant prior to placing that applicant on the program's rank order list.**

#### 5.1 Match Commitment

**The listing of an applicant by a program on its certified rank order list or of a program by an applicant on the applicant's certified rank order list establishes a binding commitment to offer or to accept an appointment if a match results and to start training in good faith (e.g., with the intent to complete the program) on the date specified in the appointment contract.** *The same binding commitment applies to positions offered and accepted during the Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP). Failure to honor that commitment is a breach of the Agreement and may result in penalties to the program or applicant.*