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**Guidelines and Timeline for 4th Year Advanced Pediatric/Congenital Cardiac Imaging Fellowships**

The purpose of the guidelines and timeline is to establish a uniform application process for programs offering 4th Year Advanced Pediatric/Congenital Cardiac Imaging Fellowships. They have been developed solely to benefit fellows applying for Advanced Pediatric/Congenital Cardiac Imaging Fellowships and to provide them with a reasonable choice of programs as well as a fair selection process. Establishing a uniform offer date would allow the fellow applicants to know of all the programs offering them a position, thus giving them more information to help with the decision of where to go for advanced training. The suggested guidelines and timeline help to correct the informational asymmetry that currently exists between fellow applicants and training programs.

Guidelines:

1. The earliest date that programs will begin offering positions is December 1 of the preceding year. For example, for fellowship positions beginning on July 1, 2015, the earliest a position would be offered is December 1, 2014.

2. Fellowship applicants will be given a minimum of 2 weeks for a decision to accept or decline the offer.

3. The date does not apply to internal fellowship applicants.

The suggested guidelines and timeline do not represent an explicit agreement among the programs, nor do they represent an obligation or requirement for programs offering Advanced Pediatric/Congenital Cardiac Imaging Fellowships. They are not related in any way to compensation, benefits, or any other terms of employment, and programs should not agree upon or otherwise coordinate compensation, benefits, or other terms of employment for the fellows.