

Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER) Guiding Principles

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Introduction

The Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER) is an initiative of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC). The mandate of the CAPER initiative is to be the definitive source of national longitudinal information and analysis on trainees within the Canadian postgraduate medical education system. Although the CAPER initiative has a clear mission and mandate, the initiative does not have formalized guiding principles.

CAPER Mission

Be the definitive source of national longitudinal information and analysis on trainees within the Canadian postgraduate medical education system.

CAPER Mandate

The mandate of the Canadian Post-M.D. Education Registry (CAPER) is to:

- Maintain and update a longitudinal database of all trainees in the Canadian postgraduate medical education system.
- Provide medical schools, participating organizations and others with a detailed annual census of all trainees including longitudinal information and analysis.
- Provide medical schools with in-depth information related to their own postgraduate training programs.
- Assist in the interpretation and use of the information to maximize its utility for those involved in postgraduate training, research and health human resource planning.

This document, created by the CAPER Program Lead with substantial input from the CAPER Committee formalizes our guiding principles for all stakeholders. As always, we value your feedback and invite you to reach out to CAPER (caper@afmc.ca) should you have any questions or comments about our guiding principles.

Thematic Guiding Principles

The guiding principles for the CAPER were conceptualized as responding to challenges that the CAPER initiative faces. As such they are primarily aligned with our existing strategic plan.

Financial Stability

As is the case for almost all non-profit organizations operating across Canada the CAPER initiative is challenged by the economic realities of inflation and the degree of support our funders can sustain.

Therefore, we commit to:

- 1) Pursue projects that support the financial stability of the CAPER initiative.
- 2) Complete data requests that originate from an individual not affiliated with a funding partner organization, provincial/territorial government, or data provider on a cost-recovery basis.
- 3) Focus on delivering value for the investment of our partner organizations and the provinces/territories.

Collaboration with Partner Organizations and Provinces/Territories

One of the key benefits of joining the CAPER initiative is the facilitation of collaboration between partner organizations as well as the provinces and territories. This encourages inter-organizational cooperation to help ensure Canadians receive the best healthcare possible. Therefore, we commit to:

- 4) Facilitate connections between partner organizations.
- 5) Being open to safe and strategic sharing of CAPER data to improve the healthcare Canadians receive.

Focus on Strategic Plan Deliverables

The strategic plan was developed by the CAPER Manager with extensive consultations with the CAPER Committee. Leadership and staff at CAPER must manage a number of competing and emergent tasks throughout the course of the year. To ensure that we are always advancing our strategic plan we commit to:

- 6) Only undertake projects that will align with the strategic plan.
- 7) Undertake such new projects after consultation with the CAPER Committee.

Relevance of CAPER and Data Holdings

The reason that the CAPER initiative was formed and continues to exist is the usefulness the initiative brings to the Canadian medical education system and the healthcare system as a whole. The following activities support this. CAPER commits to:

- 8) Engage regularly with stakeholders to ensure our data meets their needs.
- 9) Review how to adjust CAPER's approach when data does not meet those needs in a timely and efficient manner.
- 10) Conduct extensive data quality and logic checks on all data received at CAPER.

Conclusion and Summary

The CAPER initiative is unique in that we are the only source of trusted and checked pan-Canadian data on our future medical workforce. The guiding principles detailed above will allow the leadership of the initiative to consistently make choices that will ensure the stability and future of this important group.