

Table 1
Promotional Materials in Patient Care Areas

Area	Number of Promotional Materials															
	Pens		Notepads		Drug Samples		Pamphlets and Educational Posters		Mono-filaments		Reflex Hammers		Trinkets		Total	
	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009	1988	2009
Examination rooms	0	1	20	0	0	0	35	0	NA	16	0	2	14	0	69	19
Nursing stations	5	37	11	0	1	0	9	0	NA	8	0	0	21	6	47	51
Hallways	0	0	5	0	0	0	8	0	NA	0	0	0	8	0	21	0
Waiting room	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	NA	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	5	38	36	0	1	0	55	0	NA	24	0	2	43	6	140	70

With regard to pharmaceutical promotion, however, our survey demonstrates the truth of the adage: “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

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REFERENCE

1. Shaughnessy AF. Drug promotion in a family medicine training center. *JAMA* 1988;260(7):926.

Comment

Disparities in the Residency Match Process

To the Editor:

We are writing to express our concerns with the current residency matching process regarding an apparent loophole that treats sponsored US graduates differently than independent applicants from international medical schools. Allowing international graduates to enter the National Resident Match-

ing Program (NRMP) and then withdraw if offered a pre-Match position, is unfair to US graduates and programs that use the matching process in good faith.

Currently, a US graduate must go through the entire interview process and then wait until Match Day to find out which program they have matched with. They may not withdraw from the Match except through the dean of student affairs of their sponsoring medical school. On the other hand, an international graduate could start the NRMP process and then could independently withdraw from the Match if offered a pre-Match position prior to the rank order list certification deadline.

From a residency program perspective, one could interview a number of international graduates and not have the opportunity to match any of them if they all withdrew prior to the ranking deadline. A program will spend a lot of time and energy on individuals they are unable to match with. Having an agreement outside of the Match is also risky for applicants. Such loose agreements may lead to applicants refusing to show up or programs refusing to take on an applicant after initially agreeing to terms. The NRMP process, on the other hand, is a legally binding

agreement ensuring both parties a successful outcome.

We are concerned that this disparity creates an uneven playing field between domestic and international graduates and between programs that strictly use the NRMP process and those who routinely practice pre-matching agreements. We recommend that the NRMP sponsors and board of directors reevaluate the impact these policies have on both applicants and residency programs.

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Humanizing the Clinical Gaze: Movies and the Empathic Understanding of Psychosis

To the Editor:

Since its earliest days, cinema has been recognized as a medium of profound cultural value. In particular, over the past century, cinema has been an influential source of education, shaping societal and professional attitudes to mental illness and more generally contributing to the cultural sensitivity of the contemporary world.