



Committee on Accreditation for Education in Neurodiagnostic Technology (CoA-NDT)

1449 Hill Street

Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588

978.338.6300 (v) 978.832.2638 (f)

Email: office@coa-ndt.org Website: www.coa-ndt.org

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CoA-NDT's Statement about COVID-19

CoA-NDT is receiving phone calls and emails asking how to handle situations when students are impacted by the public health crisis created by the COVID-19 virus. Please be assured that CoA-NDT will work with our programs during this public health crisis. It is likely that your institution either has already or is working on, a plan for the campus. It is unlikely that CoA-NDT will object to any plans that impact your program since your college administration and local health officials are best prepared to evaluate the local situation.

Clinical education:

Some hospitals/labs are suspending all clinical education activities during this crisis. If your students are not permitted to attend clinical you should consider:

- The CAAHEP/CoA-NDT **Standards** do not identify a specific number of clinical hours. Each program has determined the number of clinical hours in the program. You may wish to consider the use of simulation as an alternative to clinical hours. If the hospital/lab has suspended clinical education opportunities, and it is not feasible either to use simulation or to assign the student(s) to another site, the program should develop a written action plan that will allow the student(s) to demonstrate achievement of the program's clinical education objectives. The action plan might include, but is not limited to, extending the clinical course or increasing the number of hours students spend at clinical when they are allowed to return (e.g., 10 hours instead of 8; using non-traditional hours such as evening and weekends if the hospital/lab schedules patients during those hours).
- The CAAHEP/CoA-NDT **Standards** do not identify a specific number of procedures. Each program has determined the method by which clinical competency is documented. If the program requires a specific number of procedures before the student is evaluated it may be reasonable to defer the specific number during this public health crisis and to determine whether the student is ready for a competency evaluation based on the skills s/he has developed. Your clinical preceptors/instructors may be best prepared to determine this since they work with the students in clinic on a regular basis.

Didactic and laboratory courses:

Some colleges and universities are closing the campuses and presenting all courses using online methodology. While this is reasonable for didactic courses, CoA-NDT recognizes it may present challenges for laboratory courses. In these cases, it may be reasonable for the program to use Zoom, Skype, or other technology to create laboratory experiences that can be completed in the students' homes. If there is no reasonable alternative to the laboratory course(s), the program director should consult his/her academic leadership to determine the



policies and procedures developed by the institution, and develop an action plan to document how students will be able to develop psychomotor skills in a laboratory setting prior to performing them on patients.

Notifying the CoA-NDT:

A Substantive Change report should be submitted to the CoA-NDT if the program either implements a contingency plan developed by the sponsoring institution or needs to modify the clinical and laboratory components of the program. The Substantive Change report should describe how the clinical education and laboratory components of the program were modified, and how the program will verify that all students achieve the learning objectives for the course(s). This information will assist CoA-NDT in supporting the programs while concurrently providing a way for CoA-NDT to assess substantial compliance with the **Standards**.

Site Visits:

CoA-NDT will suspend scheduling site visits for the immediate future. We will follow the recommendations of the national and local public health agencies and work with those programs to identify a reasonable time to schedule the site visit. Please remember that your current CAAHEP accreditation status will not expire and remains in place until CoA-NDT/CAAHEP takes affirmative action to award a new accreditation status.

If there is a scheduled site visit, CoA-NDT will work with the team and the program to determine whether the site visit will be completed as scheduled or delayed.

Progress Reports, Annual Reports, and Fees:

In general, deadlines for self-studies, progress reports, annual reports, and the submission of fees are not impacted. Please be assured that no program will be penalized for missing accreditation deadlines if the sponsoring organization is closed during this public health crisis. Please notify the CoA-NDT Executive Office if your institution is planning to close and you lack off-campus access to your email. If your institution is closed for usual business, and checks for annual fees or other CoA-NDT invoices cannot be processed in a timely manner, please notify the CoA-NDT Executive Office when you receive an invoice so we can delay the due date, as appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Office if you have any questions or need additional information in order to address a specific situation at your institution. We will work with any program that has specific needs on a case-by-case basis.

Please share this information with the appropriate individuals in your program.

Sincerely,

Jackie L. Long-Goding, PhD, RRT-NPS, FAARC, Executive Director
Kellee Trice, BS, R EEG/EP T, RPSGT, Chair, CoA-NDT

