



## Match Policy: What Fellowship Applicants Need to Know

Before participating in the *Specialties Matching Service*®, each applicant must agree to the terms and conditions of the [Match Participation Agreement \(MPA\)](#). Every applicant should read the MPA thoroughly because **the entire Agreement is binding**; however, this document is intended to promote compliance with policy by highlighting sections of the Agreement that are new and/or especially relevant to applicants.

- ✓ An applicant whose waiver request is denied and who does not accept the matched position will be investigated for potential breach of the Agreement. If a matched applicant applies for, discusses, interviews for, or accepts a concurrent year position in another program prior to receiving a waiver from the NRMP, the applicant will be subject to an investigation and the levying of sanctions. (Section 2.4)
- ✓ Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and Match Day, applicants and programs cannot apply for, discuss, interview for, or accept or offer any position that would run concurrent with positions offered in the Specialties Matching Service (Section 4.2)
- ✓ Applicants are required to provide complete, timely, and accurate information to programs during the application, interview, and/or matching processes (up through the 45th day of training) and to the NRMP during the course of waiver requests, violation investigations, and arbitration proceedings. Information that may be considered pertinent to a program's decision to rank an applicant must be provided. Such information includes but is not limited to an applicant's ability to satisfy program requirements and circumstances that may reasonably be expected to affect adversely the applicant's licensure status, visa status, or ability to start the training program. (Section 4.6)
- ✓ An applicant who gives notice of resignation, resigns, or vacates a position within 45 days of the start date specified in the contract shall be presumed to be in breach of the Agreement unless a waiver has been granted by the NRMP. The match commitment is deemed honored so long as an applicant enters and remains in the training program through the first 45 days after the start date of the relevant appointment contract. Entered training means a contract has been signed and the applicant is actively attending or training in a program. If the applicant is not actively engaged in the program or has not started training through the first 45 days, a waiver of the match commitment is required. (Section 5.1)
- ✓ Applicants are free to keep confidential the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply. (Section 6.0)
- ✓ An applicant who is the subject of an alleged violation will be presumed to have engaged in a wrongful act if there is no response to an inquiry from the NRMP after three attempts at contact have been made. (Viol Policy, Sect C)

**Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of the MPA, whether intentionally or not, may result in an investigation and the imposition of penalties**, including, not limited to being barred from accepting or starting a position in any program at a Match-participating institution, being barred from future Matches, and being identified as a Match violator in the web-based **R3** system.