Frequently Asked Questions: The NRMP Match for Hematopathology Fellowship

The selection process for prospective fellows in Hematopathology is switching to the NRMP Pathology Fellowship Match **for positions that begin in 2028**. This document assumes you are a program director/representative of a Hematopathology Fellowship program that has agreed to participate in the Match. Hematopathology will participate in a multi-specialty Pathology Fellowship Match with Forensic Pathology and possibly other subspecialties in Pathology who are considering a Match.

1. Now that we have agreed to participate in the Match, what happens next?
   Below is an approximate timeline of events:
   a. **Summer/Fall 2026**: Applicants are encouraged to submit applications to their programs their choice; check each program for requirements and deadlines..
   b. **January 2027:** You can begin interviewing applicants.
   c. **February 3rd 2027 at noon, ET: Pathology Fellowship Match opens for registration:** this is when your program signs a legally binding Match Participation Agreement with the NRMP, and also when applicants can begin registering for the Match.
   d. **February 24, 2027 at noon, ET:** Ranking opens.
   e. **March 31, 2027 at 11:59 PM, ET:** Quota Change Deadline (Quota is the number of positions you program intends to fill in the Match. Programs must withdraw by the deadline or make any change to their number of positions in the Match).
   f. **April 14, 2027 at 9:00 PM, ET**: Rank Order List Certification Deadline (for you and for applicants). Rank lists cannot be edited after this.
   g. **April 28, 2027 at noon, ET: Match day!**
   h. **July 2028:** Your new fellow(s) start

2. Do we use ERAS to receive applications for fellowship?
   a. **No, ERAS is not used** for applications. For Hematopathology Fellowship positions, only the selection process (the Match) is being handled by a central entity (the NRMP). Each program will continue to have their own application requirements, including their application forms and required letters of reference. Many programs utilize the CAP standard fellowship application: https://www.cap.org/wp-content/uploads/documents/standardized-pathology-fellowship-application.pdf?download=true

3. When can our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?
   a. You can make an account **starting February 3rd 2027 at noon, ET**, which is when your program signs a legally binding Match Participation Agreement with the NRMP.

4. How does our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?
    a. Consult the NRMP Fellowship Match Institution Checklist: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SMS-Institution-Checklist.pdf
    b. Programs only need to create an NRMP account once.
    c. Programs that participated in last year's Hematopathology Match will be contacted directly by the NRMP to re-register. Please ensure that the program director and program coordinator contact information on file with the NRMP is accurate and up to date.
    d. Programs that did not participate last year but wish to join the Match this year must complete and submit a new program form directly to the NRMP: Programs & Institutions | NRMP
    e. Changes in program directorship or addition of new participating programs will be communicated directly with the NRMP.

5. Will applicants be able to apply to non-Match programs?
    a. Applicants can still apply to and interview at non-Match programs. However, they must decide whether or not to accept a position at a non-Match program **before April 14, 2027, rank order list certification deadline**. The Match is a binding commitment. If an applicant accepts a position at a non-Match program and does not withdraw from the NRMP Match, they will have committed a Match violation that may be disclosed to the medical school, current program director, designated institutional official, and other relevant parties.

6. May I ask applicants to disclose their interest in our program in terms of ranking preference?
    a. Programs **must not** request the applicants' ranking preference or intentions. **However,** applicants **may voluntarily disclose their ranking preference or interest** to you during the application process. Likewise, **you may voluntarily disclose your ranking preference or interest** to applicants, but applicants are **not permitted to request** your ranking preference from you.

7. What if an applicant who matched at our program does not want to, or cannot enroll?
    a. All programs and applicants must respect the binding nature of a match commitment and be prepared to honor the commitment if a match occurs with any program placed on a rank order list. If an applicant cannot or will not honor the commitment, a waiver or deferral must be requested from the NRMP (see link below). Waivers are granted only in cases of ineligibility, change of specialty, or unanticipated, serious, and extreme hardship.

8. Do we have to include all of our fellowship positions in the Match?
    a. Yes. In order to have sufficient participant for a robust Match, participating hematopathology fellowship programs have agreed to include all of their fellowship positions in the Match.

9. What happens if our program commits a Match violation?
    a. Match violations are investigated by the NRMP and serious consequences can occur. These consequences can include the violations being reported to relevant entities and being barred from future Matches. See also the NRMP Violations policy section 6b below:
        i. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Violations-Policy_Ver.Aug2023.pdf

10. Where can I find more information on the Match Code of Conduct?
    a. https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-the-match/the-match-agreement/match-codes-of-conduct/

11. What should I do if I feel a Match Code of Conduct violation has occurred?
    a. See the below website for reporting information: https://www.nrmp.org/policy/reporting-and-investigation-of-violations/

12. How does the Match work?
    a. You can review how the algorithm works by visiting: https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-the-match/how-matching-algorithm-works/

13. What if our fellowship program does not fill all positions?
    a. After Match Day, all programs in the Match with unfilled positions receive a list of applicants who did not Match. Applicants also receive a list of programs that did not fill. At this point, applicants can reach out directly to those programs to apply for and interview at these unfilled positions **outside of the NRMP Match**.

14. What are the benefits of using the NRMP Match?
    a. The NRMP Match ensures professional standards in conduct are used in the selection of fellows. The Match will help make the Hematopathology Fellowship selection process more equitable and timely.

15. Where can I find a list of hematopathology fellowships participating in the match?
    a. Society for Hematopathology webpage https://www.society-for-hematopathology.org/web/education-match.php
    b. The SH will be able to link from this webpage to your personal fellowship website.

16. How much does it cost for programs to register with the NRMP Match?
    a. For Matches opening after January 1, 2027, NRMP lists an institution registration fee of $300 per Match, a program registration fee of $100 per track, and $85 per certified position (quota). This is a quota-based fee, not a per applicant-matched fee. For more information: For more information: Match Fees | NRMP

17. Where can I find more information on the Match for Hematopathology?
    a. NRMP webpage: https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship/pathology/
    b. Society for Hematopathology webpage: http://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/
    c. Society contact: info@society-for-hematopathology.org

18. What do I tell an applicant who applies for a 2028-2029 position in my program?
    a. Here is a suggested response: "We are excited to participate in the Hematopathology Fellowship NRMP Match for the 2028-2029 appointment year. A list of all the programs participating in the Match can be found on the SH website. An FAQ document on the match process written for applicants is also available on that website. Please send us your application materials including {insert program specific information here}. We will be in touch to schedule interviews, which will take place starting January 2027. You will need to register for the Pathology Fellowship Match in February 2027 with the NRMP (https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/) and can rank programs participating in the match with which you have interviewed."

19. How do I confirm the identity of the applicant(s) I want to rank within the NRMP system? (i.e. what if there are two people named John Smith in the system?)
    a. Programs have the ability to search for and rank applicants using their AAMC ID, first and last name, and medical school in addition to their NRMP ID.

20. Is it possible to have a combined fellowship using the NRMP Match? (for example, HP and clinical informatics or HP and MGP)
    a. Yes. Combined training arrangements may be possible but require coordination with NRMP and relevant programs. Please reach out to the NRMP or to info@society-for-hematopathology.org for details on this process.

21. What do I do if I have questions that are specific to my hematopathology fellowship program?
    a. You can reach out directly to the NRMP for more information.
    b. Email: support@nrmp.org Toll Free: (866)653-NRMP Phone: (202)400-2233