

Guide to Construction of a Block Diagram for Emergency Medicine Subspecialties

A block diagram is a representation of the rotation schedule for a fellow in a given post-graduate year. It offers information on the type, location, length, and variety of rotations for that year. The block diagram shows the rotations a learner would have in a given year; it does not represent the order in which they occur.

The block diagram:

- is not the fellow call schedule;
- should not include individual fellow names;
- should not reflect blocks specifically assigned to vacation.

Two common models of the block diagram exist: the first is organized by month; the second divides the year into 13 four-week blocks. Rotations may span several of these time segments, particularly for subspecialty programs.

In constructing the block diagram, include the **participating site** in which the rotation takes place and the **name of the rotation**. If the name of the rotation does not clearly indicate the nature of the rotation, then clarifying information should be provided in a key at the bottom of the document.

When “**elective**” time is shown in the block diagram, the choice of elective rotations available for fellows should be listed in the key. Elective rotations do not require a participating site.

General Tips:

- Split months can be challenging to count. Unless otherwise indicated at the bottom of the block diagram, a 50/50 split is assumed.
- Ensure that site numbers correspond to the numbering in the Accreditation Data System (ADS).
- Indicate in the key how vacation time is taken.

Example Block Diagram – 12 blocks

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Site	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 2	Site 1	Site 3	Site 2	Site 1	Site 1	Site 1	Site 2	Site 1
Rotation Name												

Example Block Diagram – 13 blocks

Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Site	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 2	Site 1	Site 3	Site 2	Site 1	Site 1	Site 2	Site 1	Site 2	Site 1
Rotation Name													

KEY

Sites

- Site 1: [institution 1]
- Site 2: [institution 2]
- Site 3: [institution 3]

Elective Options:

Rotation Names
