

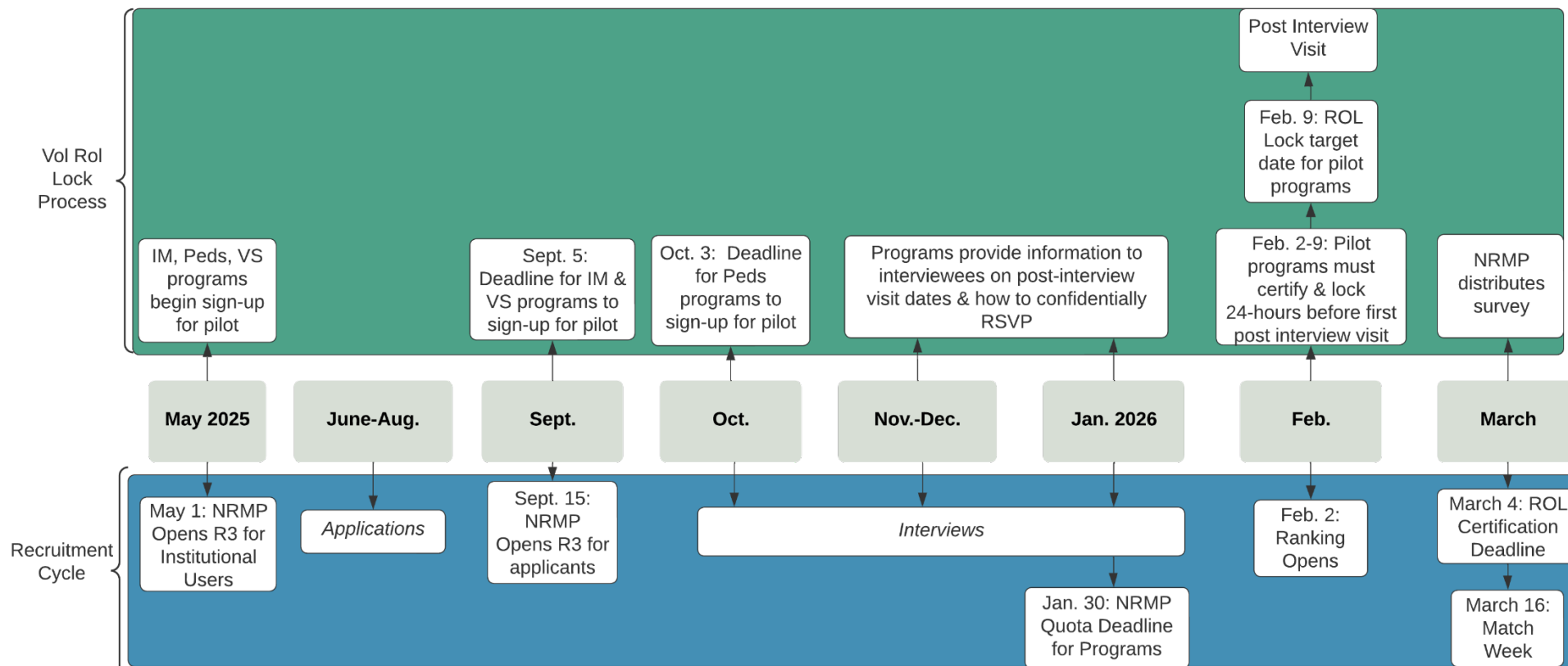
NRMP's Voluntary Program Rank Order List (ROL) Lock

This document outlines the process and timeline for the NRMP's Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock for Programs, with the partnership of the Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery specialties. Programs in those three specialties will have the opportunity to participate beginning with the 2026 Main Residency Match® cycle.

This pilot will make it possible for the NRMP, and participating programs, to explore the merits and utility of a voluntary functionality that would allow programs to “lock” their rank order lists in the NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system. Programs voluntarily locking their ROL prior to the certification deadline allows a program to establish a window when interviewees could choose to visit—or not—the program without concern that programs might alter their ranking preferences afterward.

For more information regarding the background and rationale for this initiative, please see the report from the NRMP's [Match Summit Meeting](#).

Timeline:



Process

Program and applicant participation in the pilot is voluntary and is only available in the Main Residency Match for programs in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery at this time. Any interested residency programs in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Vascular Surgery may participate. Programs outside those specialties, including fellowships, are not eligible to participate in the pilot at this time.

Step One: Program Directors sign-up to participate in the NRMP's R3 System

Once R3, the Match registration system, opens in May interested program directors may begin signing up to participate in the R3 system for each participating program/track.

- Programs in Internal Medicine and Vascular Surgery will have from May 1 until Friday, September 5, 2025, to sign-up.
- Programs in Pediatrics will have from May 1 until Friday, October 3, 2025, to sign up.

Programs not participating will select that option in R3.

As part of the sign-up in R3, programs will also need to agree to abide by guidelines that have been developed by the specialties to ensure best practices for the initiative. A list of the guidelines may be found [here](#). Participation in the pilot does not exempt the program leadership and recruitment team members from adherence to the policies set forth in the Match Participation Agreement and all relevant NRMP terms and conditions.

Step Two: Program Directors provide information on post-interview visits and RSVP process to all interviewed applicants

The NRMP's R3 system will show applicants which specific program tracks that are participating in the pilot. Programs also should post their participation on their program websites. After completing interviews, programs must provide information on the availability of post-interview visits to all individuals who completed an interview. All programs must have a blinded process in place to collect RSVPs from interviewees. A blinding process is to ensure that interviewees can confidentially sign-up—or not—as they wish to attend.

Step Three: Program Directors lock their ROLs by February 9

Once the Match opens for ranking on Monday, February 2, 2026, programs that elect to participate in the pilot must certify and lock their ROLs at least 24 hours before the first post-interview visit and by 11:59 pm EST on Monday, February 9. The target lock date all three participating specialties agreed to for purposes of the pilot. Once certified and locked, programs cannot uncertify and edit their ROL under any circumstance. The R3 system will display programs' locked status to all applicants. Interested interviewees can then attend—or not attend— post-interview visits with the knowledge that a program has locked their ROL and their rank status cannot be altered.

While the intent of the pilot is for participating programs to lock by the February 9 target date, programs electing not to lock the ROL by the target date **must still certify by the ROL Certification Deadline** to participate in the Match.



Following the ROL lock, the NRMP will distribute a survey to all programs and applicants in the pilot specialties to gather feedback.

Please contact pilot@nrmp.org with additional questions.