

NRMP SMS Nephrology Match for Appointment Year 2016–2017: ASN Brief Analysis

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On December 2, 2015, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) released preliminary results of the Specialties Matching Service (SMS) Match for Appointment Year (AY) 2016–2017. This is the first nephrology Match since implementation of the “All-In” policy, where all accredited training programs and all positions must be filled through the NRMP Match.

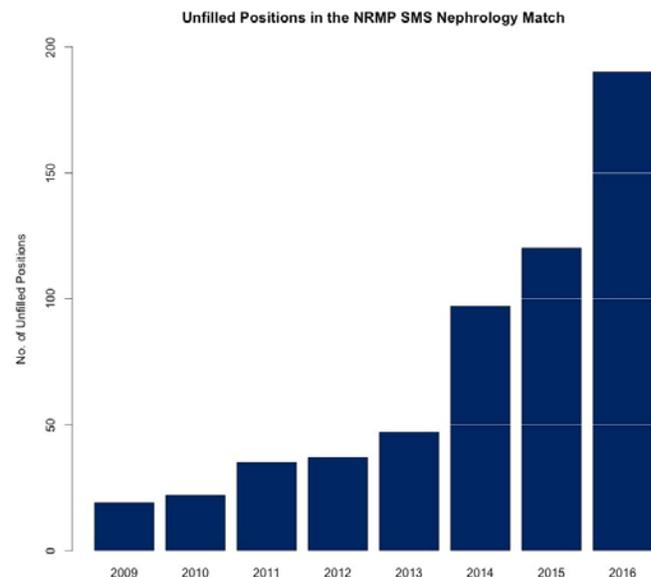
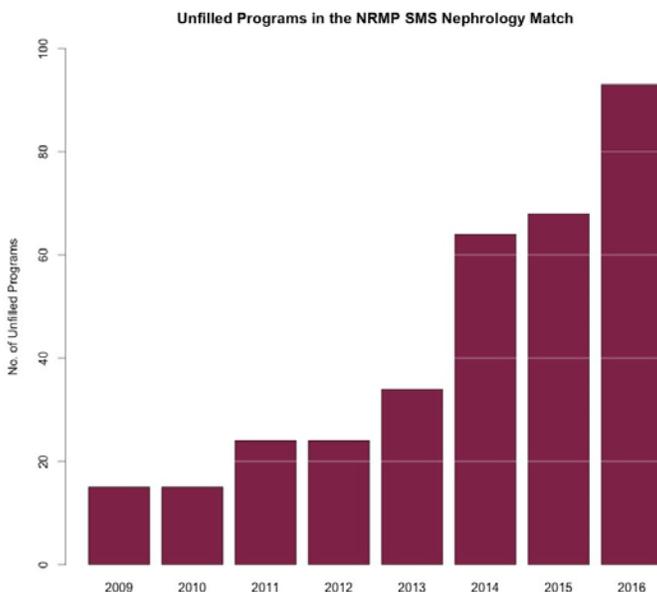
Key Points

- There was a substantial increase in programs (18%) and positions (25%) certified in the Match in first year of “All-In” over AY 2015.
- The number of matched nephrology fellows increased 8.7%, from 254 to 276.
- The number of applicants preferring nephrology rose 11% in AY 2016.
- There was a slight uptick in applications from US medical graduates (USMGs), but international medical graduate (IMG) applications continued a 6-year decline.
- Unfilled programs and positions continued to rise (36.8% and 58.3%, respectively, compared with AY 2015). The “All-In” Match policy, which led to an upturn in certified programs and positions, may have contributed to the larger proportional increase.

Nephrology Match for AY 2016

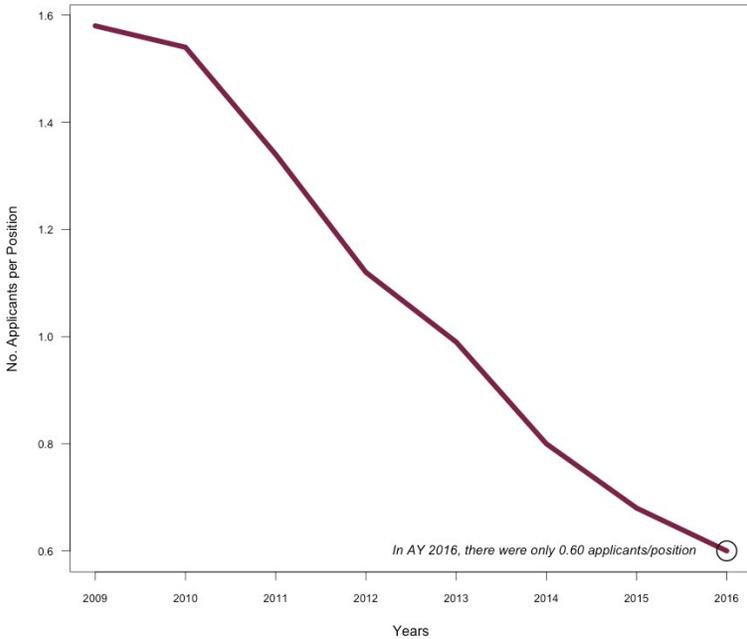
Recent trends—increasing numbers of unfilled nephrology training programs (58.9%) and fellowship positions (59.2%)—continued in the first year of “All-In.” However, the numbers of overall applications and USMG applicants rose slightly (by 11% and 2.5%, respectively) in AY 2016, reversing a 7-year decline. More osteopathic graduates and US graduates of international medical schools listed nephrology as their Preferred Specialty in AY 2016, stemming recent drops over the past 5 years. It is important to note that IMGs continue to turn away from nephrology. Over the past 6 years, the number of IMGs choosing the specialty decreased by 69.8%, from 336 to 100.

Preliminary results for AY 2016 demonstrated substantial increases in unfilled positions (58%) and unfilled programs (37%) compared to AY 2015. However, the first year of “All-In” reversed a 3-year decline in programs and positions certified in the Match, which may have contributed to this year’s larger proportional increase.

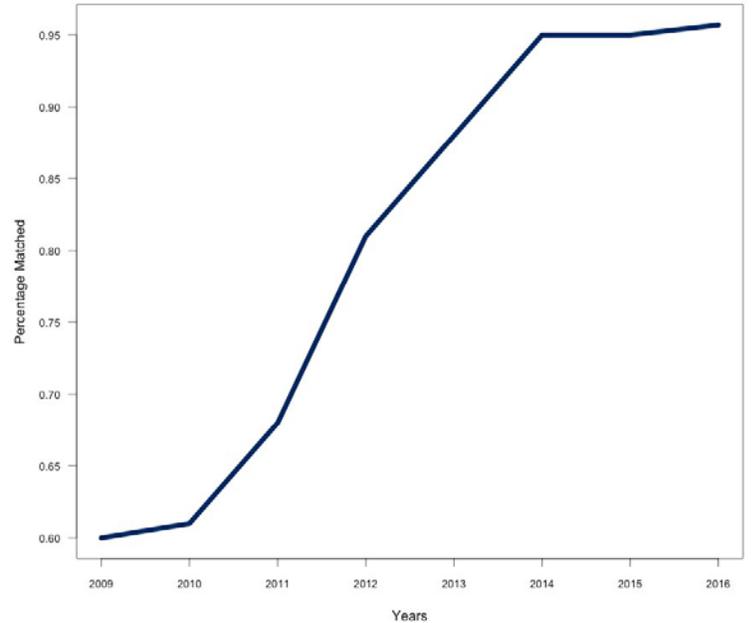


In AY 2016, there were 0.60 applicants per nephrology fellowship position, a 62% decline since nephrology joined the Match in AY 2009. Again, the 25% increase in offered positions may have contributed to this drop. As with the previous 3 years, nearly every applicant listing nephrology as their Preferred Specialty matched, with a 95.7% Match rate in AY 2016.

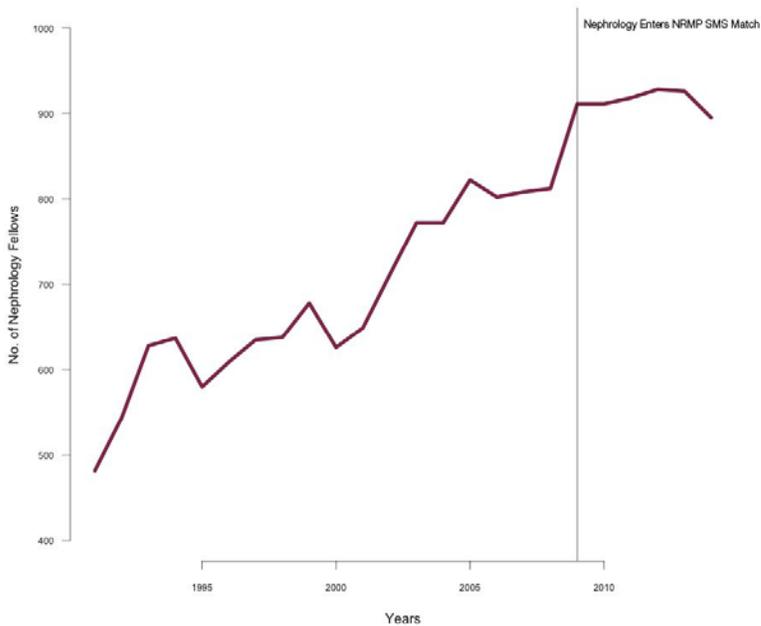
Applicants per Position in NRMP SMS Nephrology Match



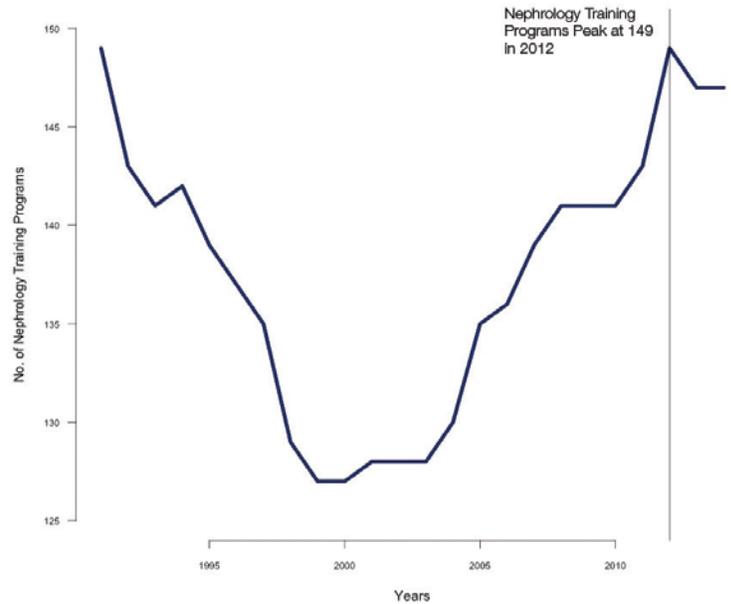
Percentage of Applicants Matched in NRMP SMS Nephrology Match



Nephrology Fellows 1991 to 2014



Nephrology Training Programs 1991 to 2014



Nephrology Match Results – NRMP SMS								
Appointment Years (AY) 2009–2016								
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
POSITIONS								
Offered	367	374	380	397	416	403	374	466
Filled	348	352	345	360	369	306	254	276
Unfilled	19	22	35	37	47	97	120	190
Percent Filled	94.8%	94.1%	90.8%	90.7%	88.7%	75.9%	67.9%	59.2%
PROGRAMS								
Offered	142	142	146	142	148	145	134	158
Unfilled	15	15	24	24	34	64	68	93
Percent Unfilled	10.6%	10.6%	16.4%	16.9%	23.0%	44.1%	50.7%	58.9%
APPLICANTS								
Total	578	576	510	446	421	323	252*	280†
U.S. Grads	149	139	97	102	100	91	79	81
Osteopaths	28	15	23	23	18	22	22	27
U.S. IMG	68	84	86	78	84	66	44	68
Non-U.S. IMG	331	336	301	242	217	142	107	100
Fifth Pathway	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	0
*In AY 2015, 252 applicants listed nephrology as their “Preferred Specialty,” 240 of whom matched in nephrology.								
†In AY 2016, 280 applicants listed nephrology as their “Preferred Specialty,” 268 of whom matched in nephrology.								

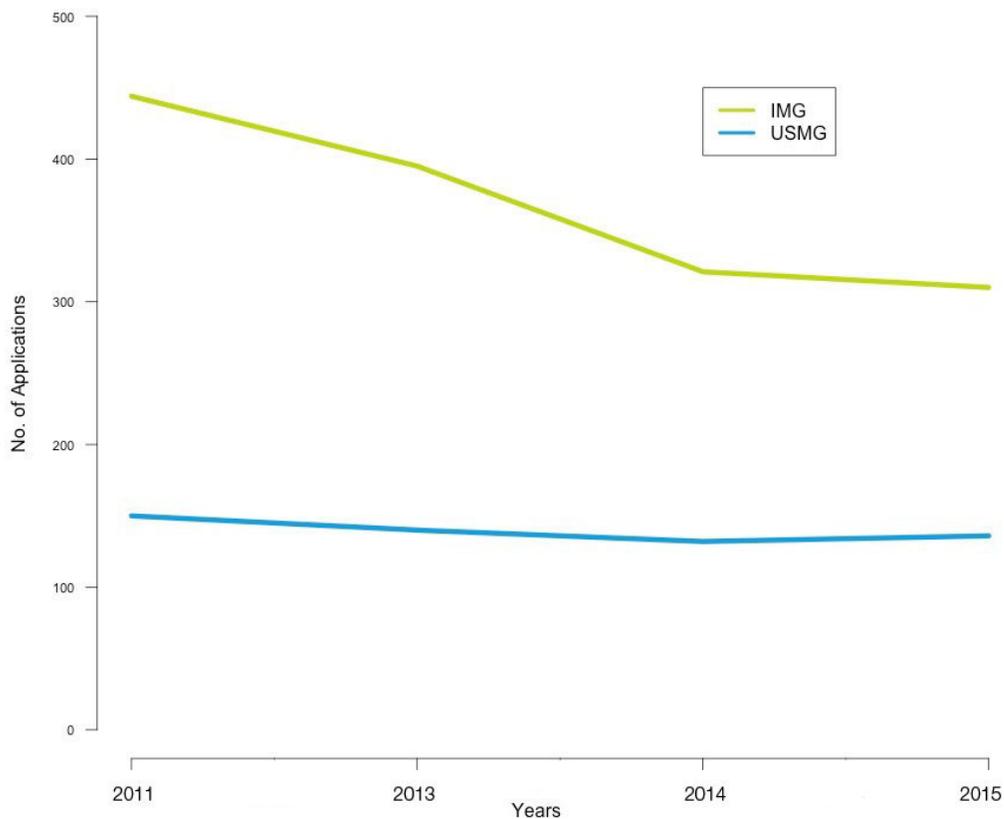
Nephrology Match Results – NRMP SMS				
	Change AY 2015–AY 2016		Overall Change AY 2009–AY 2016	
POSITIONS				
Offered	+92	+25%	+99	+27%
Filled	+22	+8.7%	-72	-21%
Unfilled	+70	+58%	+171	+900%
PROGRAMS				
Offered	+24	+18%	+16	+11%
Unfilled	+25	+37%	+78	+520%
APPLICANTS				
Total	+28	+11%	-370	-52%
U.S. Grads	+2	+2.5%	-68	-46%
Osteopaths	+5	+23%	-1	-4%
U.S. IMG	+24	+55%	0	0%
Non-U.S. IMG	-7	-7%	-231	-69.8%
Fifth Pathway	-2	-100%	-2	-100%

ERAS: A First Glance at Trends

Statistics from the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) provide a first look at trends in interest in nephrology careers among internal medicine residents. Although the mean number of applications per candidate and mean applications per program have remained flat among USMGs, there has been a steep decline among IMGs. Overall applications to nephrology have declined for both groups, but more so for IMGs.

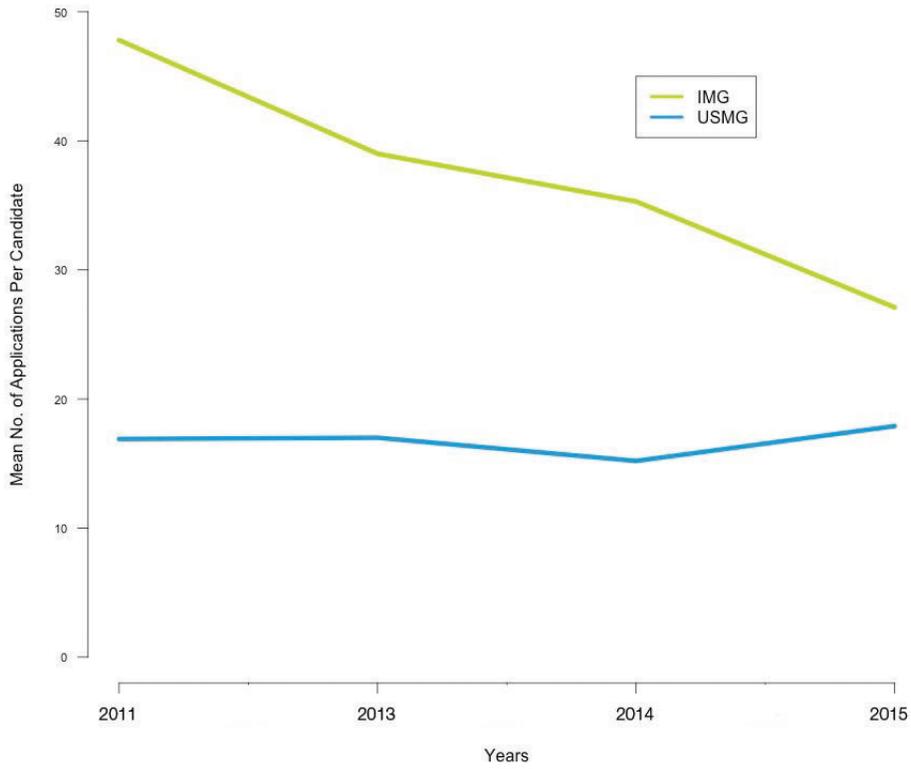
Of note, nephrology had the highest percentage of cross-registered fellowship applicants for an internal medicine subspecialty without an allied subspecialty (e.g., Hem-Onc, Pulmonary and Critical Care), according to the most recent data from ERAS 2014. Beginning in July 2016, nephrology training programs must be registered with NRMP in order to comply with “All-In” and access applications through ERAS.

ERAS Applications for Nephrology 2011 to 2015

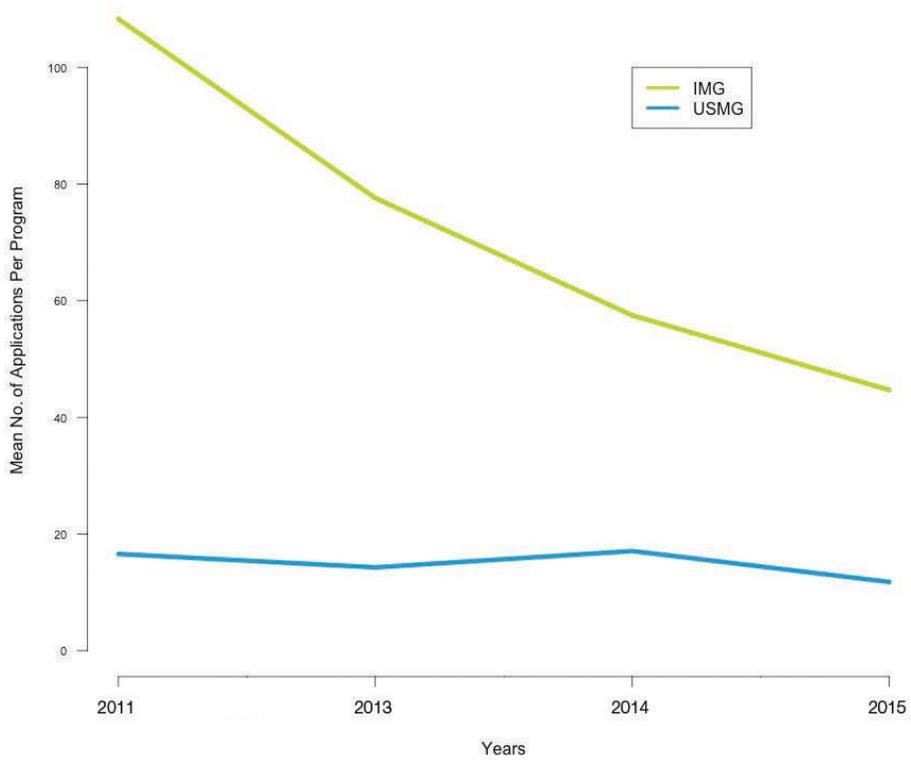


Nephrology did not recruit in 2012 because of a change from 18 to 12 month recruitment cycle.

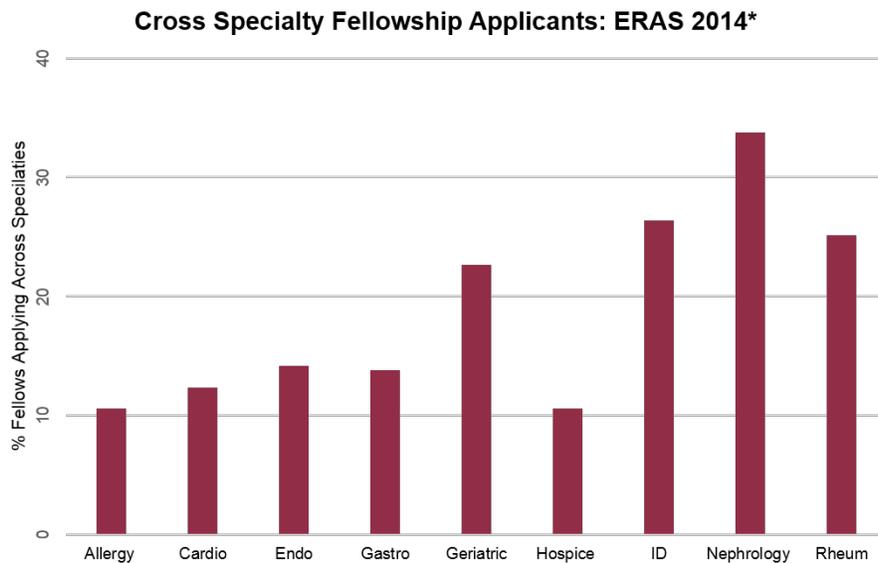
ERAS: Mean Applications Per Candidate 2011 to 2015



ERAS: Mean Applications Per Program 2011 to 2015



#NephWorkforce



Sources

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