

# POLICY ON RESIDENT DUTY HOURS

Updated: June 2011

It is the policy of the Surgery Residency Program to schedule duty hours and provide on-call schedules and back-up support for Physicians-in-Training in a manner that is in accordance with GME Policy [http://web.csmc.edu/Policies-And-Procedures/Academic%20Affairs/Graduate%20Medical%20Education/Housestaff Duty Hours and On-Call Schedule\\$15867.pdf](http://web.csmc.edu/Policies-And-Procedures/Academic%20Affairs/Graduate%20Medical%20Education/Housestaff_Duty_Hours_and_On-Call_Schedule$15867.pdf).

The Department of Surgery requires that the residency training programs foster both quality resident education and facilitate quality patient care. Overall, resident duty hours in all programs must be consistent with the Institutional and specific program Residency Review Committee (RRC) accreditation requirements established by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

[http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/home/Common\\_Program\\_Requirements\\_07012011.pdf](http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/home/Common_Program_Requirements_07012011.pdf)

The structuring of duty hours and on-call schedules focus on the needs of the patient, continuity of care and the educational needs of the residents.

- A. Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the hospital.
- B. Residents must be provided with one day in seven free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four-week period. One day is defined as one continuous 24-h period free from all clinical, educational, and administrative activities.
- C. Duty periods of PGY-1 residents must not exceed 16 hours in duration.
- D. Duty periods of PGY-2 residents and above may be scheduled to a maximum of 24 hours of continuous duty in the hospital.
- E. After 24 hours, PGY-2 residents and above may remain on-site for an additional 4 hours in order to accomplish transitions of care or to attend an educational conference. Residents may not be assigned new patients, participate in outpatient clinics, or perform elective scheduled operations.
- F. Strategic napping, especially after 16 hours of continuous duty and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., is strongly suggested.
- G. In unusual circumstances, residents, on their own initiative, may remain beyond their scheduled period of duty to continue to provide care to a single patient. **Justifications for such extensions of duty are limited to reasons of required continuity of a severely ill or unstable patient, academic importance of the events transpiring, or humanistic attention to the needs of a patient's family.**
- H. Under those circumstances, the residents must document the reasons remaining to care for the patient in question to the program director. The program director will review each submission and track resident/program episodes of additional duty.
- I. R1 residents should have 10 hours, and must have eight hours, free of duty between scheduled duty periods.
- J. R2 residents and above should have 10 hours, and must have eight hours, free of duty between scheduled duty periods. They must have at least 14 hours free of duty after 24 hours of in-house duty.
- K. Residents must not be scheduled for more than six consecutive nights of night float.
- L. PGY-2 residents and above must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every-third-night (when averaged over a four-week period).
- M. Time spent in the hospital by residents on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly hour limit. The frequency of at-home call is not subject to the every-third-night limitation, but must satisfy the requirement for one-day-in-seven free of duty, when averaged over four weeks.

Residents are required to report and log all duty hours in New Innovations. Resident must log in at least once every week. The Program Directors and coordinator will run reports on a weekly basis to review each resident's reported duty hours to ensure compliance and address potential violations.

### **Duty Hour Noncompliance**

In the circumstance where a resident recognizes that he or she will be noncompliant with duty hours, he or she must notify the chief resident, service faculty member, and program director. Accommodation will be arranged immediately to bring the hours back into compliance.

Duty hours are reviewed weekly by the program coordinator and program director. Residents who have not entered duty hour logs will be asked to complete these. Completing duty hour logs is a matter of professionalism and the resident will be judged on this. If a duty hour issue is identified by the program director, the program director will contact the resident in order to understand the circumstances that led to the violation. Corrective action will be arranged with the service in order to bring the resident back into compliance.