



Title: GME Work Hours and Clinical Education Policy

RP- 117

Written By: Chief Development Officer

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Approved By: Graduate Medical Education Committee

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Authorized By: WMCHC Board of Directors

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Graduate Medical Education Work Hours and Clinical Education Policy is to set the institutional standards for resident work hours and in-house house call that ensure the resident work hours are not excessive. This policy aligns with the ACGME requirements for program and institutional compliance. Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers (WMCHC) recognizes the strict adherence to the ACGME requirements is conducive for patient safety and resident well-being

PROTOCOL & PROCEDURE: The WMCHC GMEC and DIO oversees the resident clinical and educational work hours consistent with ACGME Institutional Program Requirements.

A. Maximum Hours of Clinical and Educational Work per Week: Clinical and educational work hours must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaging over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home, and all moonlighting.

B. Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length:

- Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.
 - i. Up to 4 hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care, and/or resident education. Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time.

C. Clinical and Educational Work Hours Exceptions:

- In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:
 - i. To continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient;
 - ii. Humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or
 - iii. To attend unique educational events.
- These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.

D. Moonlighting: Refer to the *Moonlighting Policy*.

E. Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education:

- The program must design a structure in which provides residents with educational opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal well-being.
- Residents should have 8 hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods.
- Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.
- Residents must be scheduled for a minimum of one day in 7 free of clinical work and required education, when averaged over 4 weeks. At home call cannot be assigned on these free days.

F. Maximum In-House On-Call Frequency:

- Residents must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every third night, when averaged over a 4-week period.

G. At-Home Call or Pager Call:

- Time spent on patient care activities by residents on at-home call must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit. The frequency of at-home call is not subject to the every-third-night limitation, but must satisfy the requirements for one day in seven free of clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks.

H. Resident Responsibilities:

- Timely, accurate and complete logging of work hours in accordance with institutional and program guidelines.
- Provide complete information regarding their work hours and supervision to representatives of the sponsoring institution, ACGME, and other governing bodies when requested.
- Report concerns pertaining to work hours and/or other learning environment issues by notifying the program director, Chief resident, and/or DIO.
- Notify their supervising faculty physician immediately if circumstances, such as patient emergency, may lead to violation of work hours regulations.

I. Program Director Responsibilities:

- Monitor resident work hours in accordance with ACGME requirements and WMCHC policy. This must include at a minimum:
 - i. Ensure that residents log work hours
 - ii. Monitor resident work hours
 - iii. Provide timely, accurate and complete information to the GMEC, as well as to ACGME upon request.
- Report concerns pertaining to work hours and/or other learning environment issues to the DIO.