Creighton University Graduate Medical Education
Duty Hour Policy

Creighton University GME programs will meet all ACGME Duty Hour requirements. Each training program must develop its own Duty Hour Policy. Our institution does not allow programs to request a ten percent (10%) duty hour exception from the ACGME.

Effective July 2011, all house staff are limited to 80 hours of work per week, averaged over a four week period. These hours must include time spent during in-house call activities and any moonlighting. There are additional requirements beyond the overall 80-hour limitation.

The maximum time house staff may spend on duty varies with their academic level, per ACGME Policy. Each program must ensure compliance with limitations for each level of training. Regardless of level, each house staff physician must have one day free of all duties each week, including at-home call, averaged over a four-week period.

House staff at the PGY-2 level and above may not take in-house call more often than every third night, averaged over a four-week period or as specified by specialty specific ACGME RC. If house staff physicians take at-home call, all time spent in the hospital must be counted toward duty hour limits. The program director must monitor at-home call duty hours to ensure they are not excessive.

Night Float assignments may include no more than 6 consecutive nights of duty at a time. Each program must meet its RC restrictions on the number of months of night float allowed during an academic year.

Each program must assure compliance with the ACGME requirements related to the minimum time off between scheduled duty periods for house staff at each academic level. The ACGME Review Committees define who they consider Senior Residents in a program – those residents may occasionally stay on duty or return to the hospital, resulting in fewer hours off than the requirements indicate. In those situations, the house staff physician must submit the attached Duty Hour Overtime Exception Form to his program director for review. The program director must track the exceptions for each house staff physician and for the entire program. The program director will include the exceptions in the periodic Duty Hour Report to the GMEC.

Each program must have a Moonlighting Policy, indicating whether moonlighting is permitted and under what circumstances. The house staff who moonlight must document moonlighting hours, both internal and external, and include them in their duty hour logs. All moonlighting hours are included in duty hour limitations.

Each program should document its methods of monitoring the house staff physicians for fatigue and develop a back-up coverage plan to ensure continued safe, comprehensive patient care. The program should assure that fatigued house staff have sleeping facilities or an option for transportation home and back to the hospital.

Each program must develop a method for the house staff physicians to document / log their duty hours. The program director must monitor house staff duty hours and ensure
compliance with all requirements. Each program presents duty hour information to the GMEC on a periodic basis. The GMEC reviews each program’s duty hour information and requires an action plan for any non-compliance.

In unusual circumstances, house staff physicians may, on their own initiative, remain beyond their scheduled duty period to provide care to a single patient to provide continuity for a critical patient, for an educationally important clinical experience, or to provide humanistic continuity to a patient or family. Each resident who stays beyond his scheduled duty period must appropriately hand off the care for all of his other patients. In each instance the house staff physician must fill out the attached Duty Hour Overtime Exception Form, documenting the reasons for remaining beyond the duty period, and submit it for review by the program director. The program director must track the exceptions for each house staff physician and for the entire program. The program director will include the exceptions in the periodic Duty Hour Report to the GMEC.

Attachment: Duty Hour Overtime Exception Form

GMEC approved 9-9-11
Duty Hour Overtime Exception Form

House Staff Physician: ________________________________

Date of Duty Hour exception: _______________________

Remain on duty or Return to hospital?  Remain □  Return □

Type of exception

☐ Limits related to off-duty hours
☐ Maximum daily hours
☐ 80 hours limit

Did the extra time in the hospital result in more than one type of duty hour exception?  ☐ No  ☐ Yes

If so, what other limit was exceeded?

☐ Limits related to off-duty hours
☐ Maximum daily hours
☐ 80 hours limit

Number of Hours: ______________

Why did you exceed Duty Hour limits?

Did you hand off care of all of your other patients?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If No, why not?

Have you had any other duty hour exceptions in the past four weeks?

_________________________________  ____________________________
House Staff Signature  Date

_________________________________  ____________________________
Program Director Signature  Date

June 2011
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