Policies and Procedures

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PURPOSE

The house staff physician shall remain free to utilize his/her off-duty time as he/she deems appropriate, so long as such activity does not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program and must not interfere with the resident’s fitness for work nor compromise patient safety. All moonlighting and volunteering hours must be counted towards the 80-hour maximum weekly duty hour limit.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Creighton University Department of Family Medicine Residency

POLICY

Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program. Time spent by residents in Internal and External Moonlighting (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms) must be counted towards the 80-hour Maximum Weekly Hour Limit. PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight.

ACGME Program Requirements for Family Medicine, VI.G.2. thru VI.G.2.c)

“The primary objective of each ECFMG-sponsored Exchange Visitor is to receive graduate medical training in the United States which will ultimately enhance his/her skills in a specialty field of medicine. Visa sponsorship…for Exchange Visitor (J-1 Visa) Status…authorizes a specific training activity and associated financial compensation. Federal regulations do not permit activity and/or financial compensation outside of the defined parameters of the training program. Therefore, employment outside of approved residency or fellowship training (or “moonlighting”) is not permitted.”

ECFMG l EVSP – Frequently Asked Questions

“The Temporary Educational Permit (TEP) for medicine and surgery permits the holder to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery or any of their allied specialties in a supervised educational program approved by the Nebraska Board of Medicine and Surgery. A temporary educational permit may be issued to any person who is enrolled in an approved graduate medical educational program conducted by an accredited hospital, school or college of medicine (commonly referred to as a residency). Individuals holding a TEP (residents) can only practice medicine and surgery within the residency program. Residents who only hold a TEP may not practice outside of the residency (moonlight).”

Nebraska Health and Human Services, www.dhhs.ne.gov/crl/medical/medsur/ptep/ptep.htm

Moonlighting is defined as any work as a physician outside of the residency program in which there is financial compensation.
Some basic rules governing moonlighting in the Department of Family Medicine:

- House staff physicians in the Department of Family Medicine are not required to moonlight.
- Moonlighting is counted toward duty hours and must be reported.
- Anyone interested in moonlighting must first obtain permission from the Program Director via the Family Medicine Moonlighting Permission Form found on New Innovations.
- Requirements for moonlighting include a permanent license in the State in which you will be moonlighting, not being under review/on probation, and having a minimum score of 390 on the InTraining Exam (only for those wishing to moonlight externally).
- Those who do moonlight must first fill out a Moonlighting Hours Report found on New Innovations and submit to the Program Director on a monthly basis.
- Those on a J-1 Visa are not allowed to moonlight per ECFMG policy. Those who do moonlight risk having their Visa revoked. Residents may not moonlight while on sick leave or while on FMLA.
- Anyone moonlighting who is not granted permission to moonlight will face automatic probationary status by the Advancement Committee.

Internal Moonlighting
Internal Moonlighting is defined as working for pay at CUMC, an affiliated training site, or at one of the Creighton Clinics outside of an approved rotation. Hours spent with Internal Moonlighting must be documented as duty hours. Therefore, a resident may only moonlight internally when not scheduled to work the following afternoon or at risk of violating the duty hour policy.

Residents wanting to moonlight internally must first receive permission from the Program Director. To qualify to moonlight internally, you must have a permanent license, not be on a J-1 Visa, and not be under review or on probation. Once approved, you must submit a Moonlighting Activity Report (MAR) to the Program Director monthly, whether you were moonlighting or not. Failure to complete the MAR may result in probationary status from the program. Malpractice insurance provided by Creighton University Medical Center covers house staff while moonlighting with proper authorization in the State of Nebraska.

External Moonlighting
External Moonlighting is defined as working for pay outside of CUMC, an affiliated training site, or at one of the Creighton Clinics. Residents wanting to accept employment in a medical professional capacity must first receive permission from the Program Director. To qualify to moonlight externally, you must have a permanent license, not be on a J-1 Visa, have a recent In-Training score of 390 or above, and not
be under review or on probation. Once approved, you must submit a Moonlighting Activity Report (MAR) to the Program Director monthly, whether you were moonlighting or not. Failure to complete the MAR may result in probationary status from the program. Malpractice insurance provided by Creighton University Medical Center covers house staff while moonlighting with proper authorization in the State of Nebraska.

Moonlighting outside the State of Nebraska is permissible providing proper authorization is obtained. The house staff physician is responsible for obtaining their own liability coverage for moonlighting performed outside the State of Nebraska. The house staff physician may contact the Liability Carrier utilized by the University to obtain an individual policy for moonlighting performed outside the State of Nebraska. The house staff cannot accept employment as a physician without a permanent license in the state where he/she is employed.

REFERENCES
https://www.acgme.org/

AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF THIS POLICY
Creighton University reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate this policy at any time.

The GME policy supersedes all program level policies regarding this area/topic. In the event of any discrepancies between program policies and the GME policy, the GME policy shall govern.