POLICY ON MEDICAL STUDENT CLINICAL DUTY HOURS

Policy/Procedure Statement

Medical students must have ample opportunity to consolidate their learning through self-study. Their level of clinical responsibility should allow adequate time for study, review, and preparation for required formative and summative evaluations. Finally, student responsibilities should be commensurate with a balanced life-style that allows adequate time for other non-educational tasks and healthy behaviors.

Duty Hours Policy:

- Students must not exceed an AVERAGE 80 hour weekly schedule across any four week period. All required clinical and scheduled educational and assessment activities are to be included in the duty hour estimates. Students must not be required to exceed 30 continuous duty hours.
- Students must be allowed 1 full day off in 7 or 2 full days off in 14. Teaching days, examination days, and other scheduled educational activities (e.g. POM III) do not count as days off.
- Students must not be required to complete overnight call on the evening prior to an examination or performance-based assessment.
- Religious holidays must be respected. Students requesting time off for religious observances must notify supervising faculty in advance and assure appropriate clinical coverage by another student, resident, or faculty member. Students should be required to make up any missed academic or clinical work at the discretion of the course director or supervising faculty.
- Mandatory University Holiday observances must be respected (these apply to third year students ONLY). These days may be counted as days off in compliance with the "1 in 7 or 2 in 14" policy.
- Students must not be required to stay past midnight prior to POM III sessions. They must not be required to complete morning rounds or attend other educational activities during the morning of POM III sessions. Students can be required to resume clinical responsibilities or take overnight call in the evening after POM III concludes.

Monitoring Duty Hours:

Student duty hour logs will be monitored in an on-going manner. Clerkship directors review the student duty hour logs at the mid-point of the clerkship to determine if there are any violations or trends requiring investigation or correction. During mid-clerkship review, violations are addressed with the students with adjustments made as necessary. Additionally, aggregate data is collected at the end of each clerkship and a report is forwarded to the Office of Medical Education. Identified problems will be addressed by the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education, clerkship directors and the Clinical Subcommittee. A summary report of aggregate student duty hours will be sent to the
Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum (CUMEC) annually. Student perceptions of duty hours will be monitored through clerkship evaluations and exit interviews with senior medical students. On-going regularly scheduled decanal meetings with student leadership will include discussions of duty hours.

Students are required to complete duty hour logs by the close of business on the final day of the clerkship. Failure to comply with this standard will be documented in the clerkship evaluation in the “Responsibility/Reliability/Dependability” section of the Professionalism evaluation and are subject to be included in the student’s Medical Student Performance Evaluation.

Who Needs to Know This Policy
Medical students, faculty members, residents, fellows, and staff

Policy Contact
Assistant Dean for Clinical Education

Who Approved This Policy
Committee on the Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum
Jeffrey S. Akman, M.D., Vice President for Health Affairs, and
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences
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History/Revision Dates
Last Amended: June, 2015