

UTHSCSA Graduate Medical Education Policies

<p>Section 2 Policy 2.1.7.</p>	<p>General Policies & Procedures Resident Duty Hours</p>	<p>Effective: Revised: Responsibility:</p>	<p>April 2003 November 2006 Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education</p>
<p>Resident Duty Hours</p>			
<p>Purpose</p>	<p>It is the policy of the UTHSCSA Graduate Medical Education Committee to follow requirements established by the ACGME regarding duty hours for residents in accredited training programs. Specific details can be found at the ACGME website, www.acgme.org and are subject to change without notice.</p>		
<p>Definitions</p>	<p><u>Duty hours</u>: all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the work site.</p> <p><u>Internal Moonlighting</u>: Clinical and administrative activities performed within the residency program and/or the sponsoring institution or the non-hospital sponsor's primary clinical site(s) which are voluntary and NOT required, and for which additional compensation is given. This time must be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit on duty hours.</p> <p><u>Home call (pager call)</u>: Call taken from outside the assigned institution. This call is not subject to the every third night limitation. If the residents are called into the hospital from home, those duty hours are counted toward the 80-hour limit.</p> <p><u>New patient</u>: any patient for whom the resident has not previously provided care.</p>		
<p>Policy</p>	<p>Each program must have written policies and procedures consistent with the Institutional and Program Requirements for resident duty hours and the working environment. These policies must be distributed to the residents and the faculty. All residency programs must monitor resident duty hours, on an ongoing basis, employing methods that provide accurate data. The GMEC will review program data at each internal review, in periodic resident surveys, and at other times as determined by the Associate Dean for GME.</p> <p>All programs must monitor residents for evidence of stress and fatigue related to service obligations and duty hours related to scheduled workload and moonlighting, educate faculty in monitoring residents, and develop backup plans for affected residents.</p>		

Duty Hour policies:

1. Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities.
2. Residents must be provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four week period, inclusive of call (including at home call). One day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical, educational, and administrative activities (including home call).
3. A 10 hour time period for rest and personal activities must be provided between all daily duty periods, and after in-house call.
4. In-house call must occur no more frequently than every third night, averaged over a four-week period
5. Continuous on-site duty, including in-house call, must not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Residents may remain on duty for up to 6 additional hours to participate in didactic activities, maintain continuity of medical and surgical care, transfer care of patients, or conduct outpatient continuity clinics.
6. No new patients may be accepted after 24 hours of continuous duty, except in outpatient continuity clinics.
7. When an individual RC maintains a more restricted requirement, the RC requirement will supercede the requirements listed above.

Extension of Duty Hours by 10% (to 88 hours per week)

Programs may petition the GMEC for permission to request approval from their RC for extension of duty hours to 88 hours per week for sound educational purposes.

1. The Chairman of the GMEC will appoint an ad hoc subcommittee that includes two Program Directors and three residents, including one from the requesting program, to review requests for extensions of duty hours.
2. One of the two Program Directors will chair the Ad Hoc committee.
3. The written findings and recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee will be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the GMEC.
4. Members of the GMEC, based on the letter from the Program Director and the findings and recommendations of the Ad Hoc committee, will develop its report and send this report to the Program Director.
5. The decision of the GMEC may not be appealed; however the program may resubmit its request.
6. If the request to extend duty hours has been approved by the GMEC, the Program Director then may petition the appropriate RC for permission to extend hours. The letter from the GMEC must be used when communicating to the RC.
7. Program Directors will not implement the extension of duty hours

until approved by their respective RC.

8. Program Directors must monitor resident duty hours on a routine basis, but on a more intense basis if the GMEC has granted an extension.

The request may be submitted in any format. A suggested form is appended below. Minimum information to be included with the request includes:

1. State the circumstances under which residents may be expected to duty more than 80 hours per week, averaged over 4 weeks. Include the specific rotations and the year of training for which the request is being made.
2. State why the program cannot maintain the 80-hour limit
3. State the improvement in educational experience that is anticipated to result from this increase in duty hours. This may include RRC requirements the program will not meet if residents work 80 or fewer hours per week
4. State how the program will monitor resident hours to assure compliance with the duty hour rules.
5. Statement of support by the Department Chairman.

FORM: Request for GMEC Approval of Duty Hour Extension -
[Microsoft Word .doc](#) or [Acrobat Reader .pdf](#)