

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AT EL PASO
Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
Policy

TITLE: Clinical and Educational Work Hours

PURPOSE: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a clinical and educational work hour (CEWH) policy that ensures effective oversight of institutional and program-level compliance with ACGME standards.

REVIEW: This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC).

POLICY STATEMENT: CEWH work hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the program; i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties relative to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent on in-house call, and other scheduled activities, such as conferences. This will not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational and clinical experience opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal activities.

Trainees are responsible for accurately reporting CEWH, including internal/external moonlighting. All hours should be electronically logged into the Residency Management System by the 5th day of the following month/block.

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, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home, and all moonlighting.

Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education

Residents and fellows should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods. Residents and fellows must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.

Residents and fellows must be scheduled for a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over four weeks). At-home call cannot be assigned on these free days.

Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length

Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.

- Up to four 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.

Clinical and Educational Work Hour 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:

- to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient; humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or,
- to attend unique educational events.
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These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.

A Review Committee may grant rotation-specific exceptions for up to 10 percent or a maximum of 88 clinical and educational work hours to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale.

- In preparing a request for an exception, the program director must follow the clinical and educational work hour exception policy from the *ACGME Manual of Policies and Procedures*.
- Prior to submitting the request to the Review Committee, the program director must obtain approval from the Sponsoring Institution's GMEC and DIO.

Moonlighting—please refer to the external moonlighting policy

Moonlighting must 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.

Time spent by residents in internal and external moonlighting (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms) must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.

PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight. Moonlighting for PGY-2 and above is at the discretion of the program director.

In-House Night Float

Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off in-seven requirements.

[The maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float, and maximum number of months of night float per year may be further specified by the Review Committee.]

Maximum In-House On-Call Frequency

Residents and fellows must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every third night (when averaged over a four-week period).

At-Home 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 requirement for one day in seven free of clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks.

- At-home call must not be so frequent or taxing as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time for each resident.

Residents are permitted to return to the hospital while on at-home call to provide direct care for new or established patients. These hours of inpatient patient care must be included in the 80-hour maximum weekly limit.