

Resident Duty Hours Policy

DUTY HOURS

The Tulane Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology abides by ACGME policy regarding resident duty hours implemented July 1, 2003.

- A maximum of 80 hours per week averaged over four weeks
- 1 day (continuous 24 hour period) in 7 free of program duties averaged over four weeks
- 10 hours off for rest and personal activities between duty periods and after call
- Call no more frequently than every third night when averaged over a 4 week period
- 24 hours maximum continuous on-site duty, including in-house call, with up to 6 additional hours permitted for transition as described in the ACGME requirements (i.e. didactic activities, transfer of care of patients, conduct outpatient clinics, and maintain continuity of medical and surgical care)
- Time spent in the hospital during at-home call to be counted toward the 80 hours
- No new patients to be accepted after 24 hours of continuous duty except in outpatient continuity clinics

MODIFICATIONS

Instituting a night float system at University Hospital-MCLNO and Tulane University Hospital and Clinics

Where night float system is not possible, ensuring reliefment of duties of post call resident after transition time (additional 6 hours) is complete (at Touro Hospital)

Call coverage from home (pager call) at Huey P. Long Medical Center in Pineville

MONITORING

All residents will be required to turn in weekly time-cards documenting their hours and these will be tabulated by the Residency Program Coordinator. The residents will be required to certify that their submitted time card is a true testament of hours worked. The Program Director will monitor that their hours fall within the guidelines above.

OR

All residents will be required to submit their hours worked on MyEvaluations.Com. This will be printed by the Residency Program Coordinator and reviewed for compliance by the Program Director.

All faculty and residents need to be aware of the signs/symptoms of fatigue (See Appendix A). All faculty and residents must be alert for any resident showing these signs and notify the Program Director, Associate Program Director, the Administrative Chief Resident or the Residency Coordinator immediately. Remember reporting this is a duty to protect our patients.

If the resident feels the Program is not in compliance, s/he is encouraged to notify the Program Director first so modifications can be made. The program is dedicated to maintain this policy and monitor resident fatigue. If needed, the resident may use the following website: www.acgme.org/ResInfo/complaint.asp.

MOONLIGHTING

Residents who wish to engage in the practice of medicine outside of their formal training program must have the explicit written approval of the Program Director or Chair. This will be monitored for the effect on performance in the educational program and will be counted towards the 80 duty hours/week. It is the responsibility of the resident to document and submit the hours worked while moonlighting as noted above.

A copy of this policy is distributed to all faculty and residents and will be updated accordingly.

APPENDIX A

FATIGUE: Temporary loss of strength or energy resulting from hard physical or mental work.

Signs:

- Impaired ability to function
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Difficulty concentrating
- Irritability
- Confusion
- Loss of patience
- Deteriorating interpersonal skills