

Policies and Procedures

<i>Section:</i> School of Medicine		<i>NO.</i>				
<i>Chapter:</i> Colon Rectal Surgery	<i>Issued:</i> 10/22/2019	<i>REV. A</i> 08/01/2022	<i>REV. B</i>	<i>REV. C</i>		
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PURPOSE

GME Programs, in partnership with Creighton University, 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.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Creighton University Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellows

DEFINITIONS

Work hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), operations and procedures, administrative duties relative to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care; time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled activities, such as conferences.

Work hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

POLICY

Maximum Hours of 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 to all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home.

Moonlighting

- Moonlighting is not allowed for any colon and rectal surgery resident.

Mandatory Time Free of Duty

- Residents must be scheduled for a minimum of one day free of duty every week (when averaged over four weeks). At-home call cannot be assigned on these free days.

At-Home Call

- Time spent in the hospital by residents on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly hour 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 duty, 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 care for new or established patients. Each episode of this type of care, while it must be included in the 80-hour weekly maximum, will not initiate a new "off-duty period"

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- Decisions regarding whether to report infrequent phone calls of very short duration will be left to the individual resident. Programs will need to factor in time residents are spending on clinical work at home when schedules are developed to ensure that residents are not working excess of 80 hour per week, Averaged over four weeks.

Fatigue

- Every patient in the hospital has an attending physician, who is ultimately responsible for patient care. If the resident is fatigued from on-call responsibilities or other circumstances, the resident will notify via text all attending physicians, the residents on service and the program coordinator so the resident may be relieved of duties.
- In unusual circumstances, if a fellow, on his or her own initiative, remains beyond scheduled period of duty the resident must document the reasons for remaining to care for the patient in question and submit that documentation in every circumstance to the program director.
- The program director and coordinator will review each submission of additional service and track individual fellow occurrences.

Colon and Rectal Surgery Monitoring of Work Hours

1. All work hours must be registered daily in New Innovations. There will be weekly checks of the work hour logs to ensure compliance. Falsification of work hours or not registering work hours will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination from the program.
2. If a resident is asked to work beyond ACGME work hour requirements on any service, the resident must inform the Program Director or Residency Coordinator immediately.

Protocol if a resident violates the Work hour policy:

If a resident goes over work hours, the incident resulting in the violation will be reviewed with the resident and faculty involved. Education of both resident and faculty will take place emphasizing the importance of work hours.

The monitoring frequency of work hours will increase if a violation occurs, to catch the problem “real-time”, to avoid future violations.

If subsequent violations occur, then additional action will be taken with the resident and faculty if need be.

Policy to ensure that residents have adequate rest between daily duty periods:

If residents feel they need additional rest, they are encouraged to take it. The resident should contact the Program Director to hand off clinical duties. If the Program Director is not available, the resident should contact another faculty member. If a faculty feels a resident needs additional rest, the faculty will ensure the resident is relieved of duties

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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.