

ACGME Duty Hour Rules



Mary Burda

University of Toledo

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Resident Duty Hours

- Duty 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 in-house during call activities, and scheduled activities, such as conferences. Duty hours do *not* include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

Maximum hours of Work Per Week

- Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities and all moonlighting.

Duty Hour Exceptions

- A Review Committee may grant exceptions for up to 10% or a maximum of 88 hours to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale

Moonlighting

- Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program.
- External and Internal Moonlighting hours **MUST** be counted towards the 80-hour maximum weekly hour limit.
- PGY 1's are not permitted to moonlight.

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 CAN NOT be assigned on these free days.

Maximum Duty Period Length

- Duty periods of PGY 1 residents must NOT exceed 16 hours in duration.
- Duty periods of PGY 2 residents and above may be scheduled to a maximum of 24 hours of continuous duty in the hospital.

Minimum Time Off Between Scheduled Duty Periods

- PGY-1 residents should have ten hours, and must have eight hours, free of duty between scheduled duty periods.
- Intermediate-level residents should have 10 hours free of duty, and must have eight hours between scheduled duty periods. They must have at least 14 hours free of duty after 24 hours of in-house duty.

Continued

- Residents in the final years of education must be prepared to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine and care for patients over irregular or extended periods

Maximum Frequency of In-House Night Float

- Residents must not be scheduled for more than six consecutive nights of night float.

Maximum In-House On-Call Frequency

- PGY-2 residents and above 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 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.

Continued

- 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”

Innovative Projects

- Requests for innovative projects that may deviate from the institutional, common and/or specialty specific program requirements must be approved in advance by the Review Committee. In preparing requests, the program director must follow Procedures for Approving Proposals for Innovative Projects located in the ACGME Manual on Policies and Procedures. Once a Review Committee approves a project, the sponsoring institution and program are jointly responsible for the quality of education offered to residents for the duration of such a project.

**Hand out - Frequently
Asked Questions -
ACGME**

**Common Duty Hour
Requirements**

Thank you!!!

Questions???