Core Conference Attendance Policy
Pediatric Residency Training Program
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Purpose of Conferences
Through case-based discussion, an EBM curriculum, and lectures, our UNC Pediatric Residency conference curriculum serves to augment residents’ clinical experience and ensure an appropriate breadth and depth of exposure to pediatric topics. There are a collection of different conference types, which are divided into three categories: 1) Core Conferences, which include morning reports and noon conferences, 2) Department-wide conferences, including Grand Rounds and M&M, and 3) additional conferences, such as the bi-weekly ED conference, the Wake Med conference series, and the Moses Cone conference series. This document will focus primarily on attendance expectations for the Core and Department-wide Conferences.

Residents are adult learners and should be encouraged to engage in active, self-directed learning about topics relevant to their development as pediatricians. Presenters at Core Conferences are encouraged to support adult learning theory by involving the learner and teaching material that is pertinent to general pediatric education.

Core Conferences focus primarily on medical knowledge and practice-based learning; however, five core competencies are represented in the curriculum. The sixth core competency, patient care, is enhanced by knowledge learned during all conferences. This diverse offering of conferences seeks to provide a balanced didactic experience for residents.

Attendance Expectations
UNC Core Conferences are a required component of the UNC Pediatric Residency Training Program. Regular conference attendance is essential to maintain the learning environment at each conference and to support each resident’s education in pediatrics. Given that residents spend significant time away from UNC (often at locations with complementary conference curricula), residents are necessarily absent from many UNC Core Conferences. Considering this, a minimum number of conferences is required per year. These minimums, adjusted for PGY level, are as follows:

- PL-1: 125
- PL-2: 75
- PL-3: 150

This minimum includes attendance to conferences at UNC. Attendance is required at all conferences at Moses Cone and WakeMed though these will not count towards the totals above since teaching conferences at these affiliated hospitals are arranged and administered locally.

In order to provide accurate feedback on each resident’s conference attendance, residents are responsible signing the attendance sheet at every conference that they attend.

Residents are expected to attend conferences in the following scenarios: before and after continuity clinic, when on an on-site elective, when on an off-site elective but not scheduled for clinical duties during the time of the conference, when on a special or research month unless previously specified as an away month, and when on a UNC ward month (post-call morning conferences are included; post-night shift conferences are excluded). Additionally, residents on NICU are expected to attend noon conference when working a day shift. The above benchmark numbers assume conference attendance in each of these scenarios, so residents who routinely miss conference in one of these instances may be less likely to achieve satisfactory attendance.
It is important to arrive on time to conferences to maximize learning time. Credit of attendance for a conference will not be given if a resident arrives more than 30 minutes late for a conference. Inherent in this is the need to assess if there will be food at conference ahead of time so that you can plan accordingly. If a resident arrives at conference and finds that the food availability is not what was expected, the resident should stay for conference and buy food afterward unless there is still time to buy food ahead of time and be on time to conference.

**Failure to meet conference attendance expectations will result in a meeting with Program Leadership. In addition, residents should be in good standing in regards to conference attendance to be eligible for Special Months.**

**Feedback**
Residents are encouraged to provide feedback about the conference curriculum. They are also invited to participate in the development and/or teaching of conferences, even beyond their roles as leaders for morning report & journal club. The Chief Residents strive to enable a meaningful conference curriculum, and resident input is instrumental in making this happen.