

## Protocol for residents remaining on duty beyond scheduled hours

Respite rule: Residents at the PGY2 level and above should have 10 hours free of duty between scheduled work hours. Although the 2011 ACGME requirements state that there “should” be a 10-hour respite and “must” be an 8-hour respite, the UNC GME and UNC Urology are enforcing a 10-hour respite. The most common scenario in which this occurs is when a resident is in the operating room past 8:00 p.m, at which point it becomes apparent that a 10-hour respite period would begin to impact rounds and clinical duties the following day.

In this situation the urology faculty and residents have been instructed to communicate to resolve the issue. This could include calling in the resident who is on home call that night to replace the resident in the operating room, instructing the residents to inform their peers that they will not be available to round the next day, or sending home all non-chief residents while the chief resident remains to care for the patients. This last allowance is designed to permit chief residents to become prepared to practice medicine independently after their training. In all cases the Program Director should be informed of the occurrence and nature of situations in which the respite rule is used to monitor resident duty hours. This is to be documented formally by sending an email to the program director and program coordinator as shown below.

For residents at the PGY2 level and above, 2011 ACGME requirements include a duty hours work limit of 24 continuous hours on duty. Residents may stay beyond that period for four additional hours in order to carry out an effective patient care transfer. Beyond a 24-hour period of duty in the hospital the resident must have at least 14 hours free from duty. If a resident is in this situation, the resident is required to document the reasons for remaining to care for the specific patient and submit the information to the program director and the program coordinator , as shown below.

### Duty Hours Violation Documentation

Email to Eric Wallen and Lynn West, cc to chief residents

Date of incident

Name of involved resident

Description of incident

This documentation will allow the program director and program coordinator to discuss the resident schedule with the chief residents with the goal of preventing future occurrences.

