

Duty Hour Monitoring Policy General Surgery

The Program will continue to expect 100% compliance with Duty Hour Requirements among the residents. The Program Director and Chair met with the residents and working with them the following policy has been implemented.

Comprehensive plan for duty hour management

Objectives:

1. To provide complete and safe patient care while adhering to the mandated duty hours and compliance with the Institutional Duty Hour Policy
2. To provide an educational environment for future surgeons

Mandates:

1. Residents will not work more than 80 hours/wk.
2. Residents will be free from clinical responsibilities one out of seven days averaged over a 4 week period.
3. 24 hour call be no frequently than every 4 days.
4. There will be 10 hours between shifts.
5. No new patient care will be provided by the post call resident.
6. PGY1 resident shifts will be limited to 16 hours

Expectations:

1. The surgical team will provide comprehensive care for the patient. This includes safe operative practice, comprehensive physical exams, timely order entry, effective communication with the nursing staff, accurate and timely documentation. Surgical consultations will be accepted graciously and completed in a timely fashion. All hand-off will be done in person.
2. Surgical residents will be expected to have 100% compliance with logging duty hours in accordance with Institutional Policy.

UNC surgery guidelines for duty hour management and reporting:

1. Interns will leave the hospital by 6pm if not on call. To accomplish this, they will round independently in the afternoon. They will physically see and examine all patients, have current pertinent information transfer of care including vitals and the results of any new tests or consultations.
2. Before 6 PM the intern will sign out to the next senior resident and present them with a comprehensive list that includes the above information. They will then also sign out to the intern on call for the night.
3. Interns will leave by 6 AM post evening shift. Any unfinished business will be signed out to the next senior resident on service. A list of these people will be provided.
4. Duty hours of all residents are expected to be logged daily and reviewed weekly with the chief resident on service.
5. After 6 PM, responsibility for continued patient care should transition to the night intern.
6. The senior residents will make a concerted effort to email the interns daily with a schedule and to provide them with guidelines for the service when they start a new service so the interns can more efficiently manage their time.

7. Duty hours violations will be reported and discussed at each service management conference and the Departmental M&M. Each resident is responsible for emailing their hours for the week (Tuesday to Tuesday) to their chief resident by Wednesday morning in preparation for M&M.

8. Explanations of all duty hour violations are communicated to the Program Director via email at the time of their occurrence.

9. Senior residents will make every effort to have afternoon round in between cases, any time after 12 noon, so that interns can leave the hospital in a timely fashion.

10. The Program Director and or Program coordinator monitors resident compliance with duty hour logging. Residents who are delinquent per Institutional Protocol are removed from clinical duty until their hours are updated.