



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT of SURGERY
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UNC Department of Surgery General Surgery Residency Program Work Hours Policy

The Program will expect 100% compliance with ACGME Work Hour Requirements among the residents. This policy outlines expectations for work hours and adherence to requirements.

Objectives:

1. To provide complete and safe patient care while adhering to the mandated duty hours and compliance with the UNC GME policy on duty hours (available for reference here: <https://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/uncmc/professional-education-and-services/office-of-graduate-medical-education/gme-policies/>)
2. To provide an educational environment for future surgeons

Mandates:

1. Residents will not work more than 80 hours/wk averaged over a 4 week period.
2. Residents will be free from clinical responsibilities one out of seven days averaged over a 4 week period.
3. 24 hour call will be no more frequently than every 3 days
 - a. Residents will have at least 14 hours free from clinical responsibility after a period of 24 hour call
4. No resident will work greater than 28 hours consecutively (24 hour call + 4 hour transition)
5. There will be at least 8 hours between shifts
6. No new patient care will be provided by the post call resident.

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.

Specific Guidelines and Expectations:

Guiding Principles:

- All trainees must embrace that it is ok to sign out work if it's not completed by the time you must leave (This includes signing out new consults that arrived shortly before you are to leave)
 - o Communication is key – please assure that as you leave you message the rest of the team about what still needs to be done

- For those post-call, work must be prioritized to assure critical tasks get done before leaving (i.e.- orders prioritized over notes)
- When a duty hour violation is reported you must report the following information in the comment box in Medhub
 - Service
 - Senior resident/fellow

Summary of Specific Requirements:

PGY 1:

Weekday call:

- Leave the hospital no later than 8:30 am without exception

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Friday call:

- Arrive at 3:00pm
- Leave the hospital Saturday when work is done

Saturday call:

- Arrive no earlier than 7:00am
- Leave the hospital no later than 11:00am on Sunday

PGY 2:

All shifts:

- Leave the hospital no later than 8:30 am after call without exception

Oversight:

1. As outlined above all residents reporting a violation must report the service and for junior residents, the senior residents/fellow must be included when listing a violation
2. The Program Director and or Program coordinator will monitor resident compliance with duty hour logging.
3. Residents who are delinquent per Institutional Protocol are removed from clinical duty until their hours are updated.