

GME POLICY #290 ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN, REFRAINING FROM TREATING FAMILY, AND REFRAINING FROM PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE FOR OTHER RESIDENTS OR MEDICAL STUDENTS

ESTABLISHING A PERSONAL PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN, REFRAINING FROM TREATING THEMSELVES AND FAMILY, AND REFRAINING FROM PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE FOR OTHER RESIDENTS OR MEDICAL STUDENTS

The University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga (UTCOCM Chattanooga) and the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), acknowledges the requirement for a pre-employment physical examination health statement signed by a US licensed physician before the Resident* can begin training. The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) further recommends that within six months of beginning training in Chattanooga, each Resident establish themselves either with a local primary care physician or continue contact with their already established primary care physician. In accordance with the AMA Code of Medical Ethics, physicians generally should not treat themselves or members of their immediate families. This includes Resident and Fellow physicians. Further, Residents and Fellows in GME training programs are not licensed to provide medical care to anyone without faculty supervision.

The DIO has determined that Residents should not establish patient relationships with physicians who could serve as supervising physicians in their home department (e.g., a Family Medicine Resident should not select a Family Medicine Faculty member for a personal primary care physician).

Similarly, except in emergencies, Residents should not provide primary medical care for other Residents or Medical Students for whom they could have supervisory responsibilities or with whom they have personal relationships. Again, even in emergency situations, Residents and Fellows cannot and should not provide medical care without faculty supervision.

*The term "Resident" refers to both Resident and Fellow trainees.

Revised and Approved by the GMEC 5/16/2017. Administrative edits 5/6/2019 and 6/21/2021.