

## Department of Surgery Resident Duty Hour Policy

In addition to UT GME Duty hour policy #310 (<http://www.uthsc.edu/GME/policies/dutyhours2011.pdf>), residents **MUST** follow the following program specific policies:

- Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.
- Interns must work no more than 16 hours consecutively
- All residents:
  - Maximum of 80 hours per week, averaged over 4 weeks.
  - At least one 24 hour period of time off per week, averaged over 4 weeks.
- Intermediate-level residents (PGY 2 and 3) should have 10 hours free of duty, and must have eight hours between scheduled duty periods. They must have at least 14 hours free of duty after 24 hours of in-house duty.
- Maximum period of duty is 24 hours, plus 4 hours for transition of care
  - No new patients
  - No consults
  - No clinic
  - No surgery
- Residents in the final years of education, PGY 4 and 5, must be prepared to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine and care for patients over irregular or extended periods.

This preparation must occur within the context of the 80-hour, maximum duty period length, and one-day-off-in-seven standards. While it is desirable that residents in their final years of education have eight hours free of duty between scheduled duty periods, there may be circumstances when these residents must stay on duty to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of duty. Examples include:

  - Continuity of care for a severely ill or unstable patient
  - A complex patient with whom the resident has been involved
  - Events of exceptional educational value
  - Humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family

- Night Float
  - Residents must not be scheduled for more than six consecutive nights of night float.
  - Night float rotations must not exceed 2 months in duration
  - There can be no more than 3 months of night float per year
  - No more than 15 months of night float for the entire Program Director, General Surgery
  
- Hours must be recorded for the entire months of August, October, January and April in New Innovations. These hours must be logged by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the following month, so that the program director and coordinator can check for any violations before submitting report to the GME Office.