

Glossary of Terms Related to Resident Duty Hours

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Attending Physician: An appropriately credentialed and privileged member of the medical staff who accepts full responsibility for a specific patient's medical/surgical care.

Clinical Responsibility/Workload Limits: Reasonable maximum levels of assigned work for residents/fellows consistent with ensuring a quality educational experience. Such work, and its level of intensity, varies by specialty and should be studied by all RRCs before a decision is made to incorporate specifics into the program requirements.

Conditional independence: Graded, progressive responsibility for patient care with defined oversight.

Continuity clinic: Setting for a longitudinal experience in which residents develop a continuous, long-term therapeutic relationship with a panel of patients.

Duty Hours: Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the program; i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties relative to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled activities, such as conferences. Duty hours do *not* include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

External moonlighting: Voluntary, compensated, medically-related work performed outside the institution where the resident is in training or at any of its related participating sites.

Faculty: Any individuals who have received a formal assignment to teach resident/fellow physicians. At some sites appointment to the medical staff of the hospital constitutes appointment to the faculty.

Fatigue management: Recognition by either a resident or supervisor of a level of resident fatigue that may adversely affect patient safety and enactment of a solution to mitigate the fatigue.

Fitness for duty: Mentally and physically able to effectively perform required duties and promote patient safety.

Scheduled duty periods: Assigned duty within the institution encompassing hours which may be within the normal work day, beyond the normal work day, or a combination of both.

Strategic napping: Short sleep periods, taken as a component of fatigue management, which can mitigate the adverse effects of sleep loss.

Supervising Physician: A physician, either faculty member or more senior resident, designated by the program director as the supervisor of a junior resident. Such designation must be based on the demonstrated medical and supervisory capabilities of the physician.

Transitions of care: The relaying of complete and accurate patient information between individuals or teams in transferring responsibility for patient care in the healthcare setting.