

UB Graduate Medical Education Resident Duty Hours Policy

Revised October, 1994, March, 2002, May, 2003, September 2003, May 2004

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The University at Buffalo (“UB”) and its affiliated hospitals support a work environment which is conducive to learning. Compliance with the ACGME and New York State Department of Health regulations on duty hours contributes to such an environment.

In the event of a conflict in regulations, residents and faculty in UB sponsored resident training programs must adhere to the more stringent requirements.

Residents should notify their Program Director, Chief Resident, or the Sr. Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, if they become aware of violations of the regulations.

Residents should notify their attending physician immediately if circumstances (i.e., patient emergency) may lead to violation of duty hour regulations.

Key features of the regulations which apply to all UB sponsored residency programs are as follows:

- ER shifts must be limited to no more than twelve consecutive hours/day.
- Night call must be no more frequent than every third night averaged over a four week period.
- Resident responsibilities shall not exceed an average of eighty hours per week averaged over a four week period. Programs may not petition their respective RRC’s for a 10% duty hour variance as this would violate NYSDOH duty hour regulations. When residents are called in to the hospital from home, the hours spent in-house are counted toward the eighty-hour limit.
- Inpatient duties shall not be scheduled for more than twenty-four consecutive hours with up to 3 hours for transition time. No new patient care responsibilities can be assigned during the transition period.
- Adequate rest periods between scheduled on-duty assignments should consist of ten non-working hours and at least one twenty-four hour non-working period shall be scheduled weekly.
- Each trainee shall notify their program director of employment outside the hospital (i.e., moonlighting) and the hours devoted to such employment. All moonlighting hours count toward the duty hour limitations and the UB Moonlighting policy must be adhered to. Trainees who have worked the maximum number of hours permitted shall be prohibited from working additional hours.

On a periodic basis, residents are expected to provide complete information regarding their duty hours and supervision to representatives of the sponsoring institution, affiliated hospital administration, or Department of Health (IPRO), when requested.