

Duty Hours

NO moonlighting by residents in Thoracic Surgery is allowed.

The Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery reaffirms its commitment to the ACGME duty hour guidelines. These guidelines, predicated on attaining a balance between the continuity of patient care and the patient's right to expect a healthy, alert, responsible, and responsive physician, mandate an 80 hour maximum work week averaged over four consecutive weeks. Resident education and patient care are both essential plus the avoidance of undue stress and fatigue among residents.

1. Duty hours must be limited to eighty hours, averaged over a four-week period. In every 28-day block the resident must have at least 4 days off and must not work more than 320 hours total.
2. In-house call will occur no more frequently than every third night, averaged over a four-week period. Currently, CT fellows take two in-house calls per month until physician extenders complete training. Hours worked when a resident comes into the hospital from home call are counted in the 80-hour work week. Call will be "out of hospital" and "In-house" call is limited.
3. A distinction is made between on-call time in the hospital and on-call availability at home. Residents on-call continually at home should be off beeper at least one day in seven or one weekend in two. Currently, the two fellows alternate home call at their discretion but within these guidelines.
4. Continuous onsite duty must not exceed twenty-four consecutive hours. Residents may remain on duty for an additional six hours for didactic activities, transfer of care, conduct outpatient clinics, and maintaining continuity of medical and surgical care as defined by their specialty and subspecialty requirements.
5. No new patients, as defined in the specialty and subspecialty requirements, may be accepted after twenty-four hours of continuous duty.
6. Residents must have at least one day (24 hours minimum) out of seven or two days (48 hours minimum) out of fourteen out of the hospital and free from responsibility educational and clinical responsibilities, including beeper call, averaged over a four-week period .
7. There should be a minimum of ten hours between all duty periods and after in-house call. No duty period can exceed 30 hours straight. Between 24-hour work periods there must be a minimum of a 10-hour rest period.
8. Residents are responsible for informing their superiors when further hours and call will cause them to be out of compliance.
9. Proactive attention to work hours and days off is advised. Residents will check their schedule regularly keeping the 28-day block in mind.