

Clinical Rotation Duty Hours Policy

I. Purpose

California Northstate University College of Medicine (CNUCOM) is committed to act in its students' best interest. Each student's physical and psychological wellness is a priority for the institution. This policy addresses clerkship duty hours that are an important component of student wellness.

II. Scope/Coverage

The following is intended to mandate acceptable duty hours for medical students participating in clinical rotations.

III. Policy Statement and Definitions

- A. Relevant excerpts from the policy on duty hours will be a part of the clinical clerkship handbooks. Students will be informed and reminded throughout the curriculum about the importance of abiding by prescribed duty hour limitations.
- B. The number of hours will be tracked by rotation student schedules, written feedback from student evaluation of the rotation and preceptor, as well as observation of the student's clinical team.
- C. Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the program; i.e., patient care (both inpatient and Ambulatory), 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. The COM follows the duty hours as set by the ACGME as follows:
 - An 80-hour weekly limit, averaged over four weeks;
 - An adequate rest period, which should consist of 10 hours of rest between duty periods;
 - A 24-hour limit on continuous duty, and up to six added hours for continuity of care and education
 - One day in seven free from patient care and educational obligations, averaged over four weeks;
 - In-house call no more than once every three nights, averaged over four weeks

IV. Procedure

A. Responsibility of the Supervising Faculty: Clinical Setting

1. If a student in a clinical setting has violated duty hours, the faculty supervising the student should immediately release the student from further clinical duties and responsibilities. If the student exhibits signs of excessive fatigue, the supervising faculty should follow the policies outlined in the Policy on Stress and Fatigue Management.
2. The faculty and/or supervising resident should privately discuss with the student the possible causes of the duty hour violation to identify ways to mitigate such violations in the future.
3. The faculty and/or supervising resident must immediately notify the rotation director of the decision to release the student from further clinical duties.
4. A student who is released from further clinical duties due to violation of duty hours cannot resume clinical duties without permission by the rotation director.

B. Student Responsibility

1. Students who perceive they are experiencing violations of duty hours have the professional responsibility to immediately notify their attending faculty and rotation director without fear of reprisal. If deemed necessary, students may make a confidential report via the online confidential grievance form.
2. Students who recognize a peer student violating duty hours should report their observations and concerns to the attending faculty and the appropriate clinical rotation director.

C. Rotation Director Responsibility

1. Upon removal of a student from duties, the rotation director must determine the need for immediate change in duty assignments for peer students in the clerkship and/or the clinical site.
2. The rotation director will notify the departmental chair, as necessary, to discuss methods to manage clerkship duty hours.
3. The rotation director will meet with the student in person, as necessary, to discuss methods to manage clerkship duty hours.
4. The rotation director will follow up with the faculty supervising the clinical setting as necessary.



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5. Rotation directors should provide students' assigned schedules for on-site clinical and educational activities.
6. Rotation directors will monitor the academic and clinical workload of students within individual clerkships by the virtue of clerkship design and student scheduling.
7. Rotation directors will include relevant excerpts from the policy on duty hours in the clinical clerkship handbooks and will discuss this policy with students at clerkship orientation.

Approval record:

APPROVED: Curriculum Committee 10/16/20, 8/14/2023

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REVIEW: every three years (or more often if required)