

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE POLICY ON RESIDENT SUPERVISION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Medical Staff has a defined process for supervision by a medical staff member of each resident in carrying out patient care responsibilities, and to ensure that there is a mechanism for effective communication between the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and the Medical Staff.

POLICY

All medical care provided by Resident Medical Staff shall be under the supervision of qualified medical staff attending physicians, Attending and Teaching staff according to the Medical Staff Bylaws.

PROCEDURE

- A. Patients Assigned to Attending Physician: All patients in the hospital are the direct responsibility of an attending member of the medical staff. Each patient is assigned a primary attending physician, although other attending physicians may, at times be delegated responsibility for the care of a patient and provide supervision instead of or in addition to the assigned practitioner. The supervising attending physician sees each patient and rounds with the team daily.
- B. Progressive Resident Responsibility: Attending Staff supervise participants in professional graduate medical education programs in their patient care responsibilities in a manner commensurate with the Resident's level of training and experience. The Program Director is responsible for ensuring that the degree of professional responsibility accorded to each Resident is progressively increased through the course of training, commensurate with his or her skill, training and experience. Resident graded responsibilities for each level of training are described in the individual goals and objectives for each clinical rotation. The attending physician is also responsible for determining in an individual case the degree of resident independent functioning.

Structured evaluation processes include regular verbal feedback, regular written evaluations from a variety of sources of each Resident, results of internal examinations, and program director resident evaluation meetings.

- C. Supervision:
 1. Supervising attending physicians have the responsibility to enhance the knowledge of the Resident and to ensure the quality of care delivered to each patient by any Resident. This responsibility is exercised by observation, consultation and direction. It includes the imparting of the practitioner's knowledge, skills and attitudes by the practitioner to the Resident and assuring that the care is delivered in an appropriate, timely and effective manner. Fulfillment of such responsibility requires personal involvement with each patient

and each Resident who is providing care as part of the training experience. Supervising attending physicians should act professionally and as a role model for trainees.

2. Supervisors will direct the care of the patient and provide the appropriate level of supervision based on the complexity of care, and the experience, judgment and level of training of the Resident being supervised.

D. Documentation:

The documentation requirements for care provided to patients who have been admitted to a teaching service and who are seen by Residents under the supervision of a faculty member will be by progress notes entered into the record by the attending physician at a frequency appropriate to the patient's condition or change in condition, or reflected within the Resident's progress note. Residents' notes in the chart reflecting their ongoing consultation with the attending physician shall also reflect the attending physician's approval of the treatment plan discussed with the Resident.

- E. Availability of Attending Physicians: Supervising attending physicians are available by phone or pager at all times to every resident who is caring for patients. It is expected that an attending physician provide on-site direct supervision, when required by clinical and educational circumstances within a reasonable period of time. The attending physician will be available to Residents who call him or her for assistance.

- F. Communication Encouraged: In providing supervision to Residents supervising attending physicians should provide advice and support and should encourage trainees to freely seek their input. Residents are expected to make liberal use of the supervisory resources available to them and are encouraged to seek advice and input from their supervisors.

- G. Monitoring Compliance: The quality of Resident supervision and adherence to supervision guidelines and policies shall be monitored through annual review of the Resident's evaluation of their faculty and rotations and the applicable GMEC's internal reviews of programs. For any significant concerns regarding Resident supervision, the respective program director shall submit a plan for its remediation to the GMEC for approval and the program director may be required to submit progress notes to the GMEC until the issue is resolved.

- H. To assure communication between the GMEC and the Medical Staff the Chair of the GMEC will serve as an ex officio member of the Medical Staff Credentials committee, and report regularly issues concerning the safety and quality of patient care provided by residents and the related educational and supervisory needs of residents. The Credentials Committee will include GMEC issues including resident safety, quality, and supervision needs in its reports to the MSEC and governing body.