

## **Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Fellowship Supervision and Duty Hours Policy**

### **Goals**

These standards are developed to provide high-level anesthesia patient care, effective supervision of physicians in training, and to meet guidelines provided by the University Hospital Advisory Committee.

### **Background**

The Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Group provides anesthesia for over 650 cardiac patients and 600 thoracic patients per year within the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Cardiothoracic anesthesiologists from the Department of Anesthesia supervise Resident physicians and cardiac anesthesia Fellows during the anesthetic management of these patients.

The Cardiac Anesthesia Fellowship trains physicians who have completed an accredited anesthesia program. Cardiac anesthesia Fellows work an average of four days per week in the operating room, with approximately one to two nights per week on call. This call is not in-house call, but the Fellow has to come in if there is a case. Also, the Fellow takes an average of one to two two-day weekend calls per month.

This fellowship is primarily clinically based with clinical research opportunities. Fellows are assigned to do pediatric or adult cardiac cases in the operating room.

The Director of the Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Group administers and supervises the Cardiac Anesthesia Fellowship. The cardiothoracic anesthesiologist working on a rotational basis in the operating room provides supervision for the Fellow.

### **Duty Hour Standards**

The following paragraphs describe the standards for the duty hours for trainees. A cardiac anesthesia Fellow is assigned to do one or two cases per day in the operating room, either an adult or pediatric cardiac case under direct supervision of the faculty cardiothoracic anesthesiologist.

The call schedules are developed by the Director of the Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Group each month. The duty hour policy for the Cardiac Anesthesia Fellowship is in accordance with the UIHC policy.

In addition, the cardiac anesthesia Fellow does an outside rotation, namely transesophageal echocardiography lab. During this rotation, the Fellow is supervised by the attending cardiologist specializing in transesophageal echocardiography. This rotation is for six weeks, of which four are devoted to the adult echo lab and two are devoted to the pediatric echocardiography service rotation.

One or two months are devoted to thoracic anesthesia rotation in the operating room, where the Fellows are involved in the care of thoracic surgical patients.

1. Fellows in cardiothoracic anesthesia can work no more than 80 hours per week when averaged over four weeks.
2. Fellows do not take in-house call unless they are called in and have to do a case. If the case is beyond midnight or starts at midnight, the Fellow is excused from the operating room the following morning (day).
3. Fellows must have a 10-hour rest period between duty hours.
4. Fellows in cardiac anesthesia cannot have continuous duty exceeding 24 hours.

### **Monitoring of Duty Hour Standards**

The Director of the Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Group, who is also the Director of the Fellowship Program, monitors on a continual basis compliance with duty hours. Fellows are free to report any violations to the Director of the group; Department Head, and/or House Staff Affairs.

This policy is provided to each Fellow upon beginning their Fellowship and upon request at any time during the course of their time at UIHC.

Monthly meetings between the Fellows and the Director occur to follow compliance with this policy and to modify the policy if needed.

This policy will be evaluated with the Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Group on a regular basis to ensure its effectiveness.