

## **Division of Critical Care Fellowship Supervision and Duty Hours Policy**

### Goals

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

### Background

The Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) provides critical care support for over two thousand patients per year within the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Intensivists from the Departments of Anesthesia and Surgery supervise resident physicians and Critical Care fellows in the management of life threatening illnesses.

The Critical Care Fellowship trains physicians who have completed either an accredited Anesthesia, Surgery, or Internal Medicine residency. Critical care fellows work an average of 5 days per week, with approximately 1-2 nights of in house call per week and one two-day weekend per month. This fellowship is primarily clinically based, but opportunities do exist for research and fellows are provided with one day per week of academic time. Fellows are assigned to one or two SICU bays per week and cover the entire SICU on call at night.

The Medical Director of the SICU and the Co-Director of the Critical Care Fellowship administer the Critical Care Fellowship. The Critical Care faculty working on a rotational basis provides physician coverage for the unit. Resident coverage for the unit is provided by several services, with 66% of the residents from Anesthesia, 20% from General Surgery, and 14% from other services (Emergency Medicine, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Ob/Gyn, Oral Surgery, Orthopedics, Otolaryngology and Urology). Residents work under the direction of the Division of Critical Care fellows and faculty.

### Duty Hour Standards

The following paragraphs describe the standards for the duty hours for trainees within the SICU. The SICU bays are divided up in to 3 teams each comprised of one SICU faculty member, one critical care fellow, and 3-4 residents. Critical care fellow on call coverage is provided in house Monday-Thursday and out of house on Friday and Saturday. No fellow coverage is present on Sunday. The SICU faculty are on call on a rotational basis and are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Additional back-up faculty are available if circumstances arise necessitating additional personnel. The Director and Co-Director of the Critical Care fellowship are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to assist fellows if needed.

The call schedules are developed by the Fellowship Co-Director. The resident call schedule are reviewed by the Division Director each month to assure their compliance with the policy.

The duty hour policy for the SICU is in accordance with the UIHC policy.

1. Fellows and residents within the SICU can work no more than 80 hours per week when averaged over 4 weeks.
2. Fellows and residents in the SICU can have in-house call no more frequently than every third night when averaged over 4 weeks.
3. Fellows and residents in the SICU must spend at least one full day out of seven away from program duties when averaged over four weeks.
4. Fellows in the SICU must have moonlighting approved by the Director of the Fellowship. Any moonlighting is included in the 80 hour per week duty hour limit.
5. Fellows and residents in the SICU must have a 10-hour rest period between duty hours.
6. Fellows and residents in the SICU cannot have continuous duty exceeding 24 hours. It is recognized that the intensity of care within the critical care unit can require detailed check-out and transfer of information that can exceed this specified time period.
7. Fellows and residents in the SICU should not accept new patients after 24 hours of duty.
8. To meet these goals, fellows are on call one weekend per month, otherwise, weekends are free of clinical duties, with the exception of twice yearly Fundamentals of Critical Care Support course administration. Fellows are on in-house call 1-2 nights per week, no more than every third night, and must leave the hospital premises by noon the morning following call.

#### Monitoring of Duty-Hour Standards

The Co-Director of the Critical Care Fellowship program monitors compliance with duty hours on a continual basis. Fellows are free to report any violations to the Director, Co-Director, Department Head, and/or House Staff Affairs. Fellows undergo anonymous surveys periodically to ensure duty hour compliance. The Co-Director maintains copies of all call schedules to ensure duty hour compliance and reports at minimum twice yearly to the Director of the program regarding duty hours.

This policy is provided to each fellow upon beginning his fellowship and upon request at any time during the course of his time at UIHC. Monthly meetings between the fellows and either the Co-Director or Director occur to follow compliance with this policy and to modify the policy if needed.

This policy will be evaluated on regular basis to ensure its effectiveness.