

## ***Policy for Supervision, Duty Hours and Work Environment, House Staff and the Pain Medicine Fellowship***

### 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.

### Supervision and assignment

House staff working hours in the Pain Medicine Fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospital are assigned on a basis of clinical requirements to cover patient care responsibilities at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the Veteran's Administration Hospital. During the one year Pain Fellowship, all physicians in training participate in patient care at all levels. All Fellows in the program have completed an accredited residency program and are either board certified or in the examination process in their specialty. The Fellowship working hours assigned equally among the three Pain Medicine Fellows. These working hours are also shared with residents rotating on the Pain Medicine Service for their required rotation. The residents are given responsibilities in keeping with their level of training. The resident house staff working hours are assigned in accordance with the policy on residents in the Anesthesiology Residency Training Program.

The Pain Medicine Fellows are actively supervised in all activities. The Acute Pain Service is staffed by an attending physician at all times. When a Fellow is assigned to the Acute Pain Service, they make rounds with the Acute Pain attending physician as well as an advanced nurse practitioner on the Acute Pain Service. All consultations seen by the Acute Pain Fellow are examined and reviewed by the attending physician. All procedures performed by the Acute Pain Fellow are personally staffed by the Acute Pain attending physician. Acute Pain call coverage at night is provided by both an Acute Pain attending physician and either a Fellow or resident assigned to the Acute Pain Service. The Acute Pain staff is available at all times by phone and/or pager. If there are questions regarding patient management, the Fellows and residents are instructed to contact the attending physician on call to discuss their care plan. In the event that a procedure needs to be performed in the middle of the night, the Fellow or resident and an attending physician will be present for the performance of the procedure. Although a resident may help to supervise another resident or a Fellow may supervise another resident, this does not substitute for the presence of the attending physician. The attending physician is present for the performance of any type of procedure.

## Duty Hours

The Acute Pain Service provides coverage seven days per week, 24 hours per day. Duty hours average 60-64 hours/week and do not exceed the 80 hour work week mandated by ACGME. During the week there is a Pain staff, a Fellow (either Pain Medicine Fellow or Regional Anesthesia Fellow) or resident and an Acute Pain nurse assigned to the Acute Pain Service. They work as a team to provide coverage throughout the course of the day. At night, the Acute Pain Service coverage is provided by either a Fellow (Pain Medicine Fellow or Regional Anesthesia Fellow) or a resident and an Acute Pain attending. Acute Pain call at night is from home. The Fellows and residents not on Acute Pain call provide coverage in the outpatient Pain Medicine Clinic, either at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics or the Veteran's Administration Hospital (Pain Medicine Fellows only). Clinic days typically begin at 6:30 AM and end at 5 PM, which readily allows a 10 hour rest period between assigned duties. The residents and Fellows assigned to the Chronic Pain service are not required to provide nighttime services. On weekends and on holidays, the pain service is covered by an Acute Pain attending physician and a Fellow (Pain Medicine Fellow or Regional Anesthesia Fellow) or resident. They perform daily rounds in the hospital and take beeper call from home. The Fellow, resident and attending physician are not required to take in-house overnight call.

The Pain Fellowship Program at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics ensures that assigned house staff work hours do not exceed 80 hours per week when averaged over four weeks, have no more than every third night of call on duty, and spend on average at least one full day out of seven away from program duties. The staffing for the Pain Medicine Fellowship Program allows adequate coverage in the event that a sudden or unexpected event occurs that creates fatigue sufficient to jeopardize patient care or on-call period impair the ability of the resident or staff physician to provide care. Compliance with the limitations on duty hours is readily accomplished by the maximum available hours of the Pain Medicine Clinic each week. Call coverage from home is shared between 7-8 individuals per month for the Fellows (Pain Medicine Fellow or Regional Anesthesia Fellow) or residents and amongst five Pain Medicine and two Regional Anesthesia faculty. The fellows and residents are never assigned in-house pain call. The weekend call responsibilities are divided amongst a similar number of faculty and residents. Pain Fellows or residents not on weekend call do not have clinical responsibilities and have on average at least six days off during each four week period.

It is departmental policy that all residents be supervised for every procedure and that faculty document their presence for procedures as well as their active participation in any type of patient care activity. At the beginning of each rotation, the residents are informed of the need to call the attending physician to supervise their activities and to evaluate each consult that they see. In addition, they are informed that faculty involvement is required for each and every patient that presents to the Pain Medicine Clinic for evaluation and treatment. The call schedules are developed by the Fellows for the Fellows and residents as well as the faculty call schedules are carefully reviewed by the Division Director each month to assure their compliance with the policy.

Moonlighting will not be allowed during the fellowship training period.