

Policy and Supervision of House Staff in the Regional Anesthesia 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 will be in the operating rooms at the University of Iowa Hospital. During the one year fellowship, all physicians in training will participate in patient care in the operating rooms. All Fellows in the program have completed an accredited residency program and are either board certified or board eligible in their specialty. The Fellowship working hours are assigned by the operating room with weekend at home acute pain call taken once every fifth weekend (rotating with the pain medicine fellows and residents rotating on the Pain Medicine Services for their required rotation. The house staff working hours are assigned in accordance with the policy on residents in the Anesthesiology Residency Training Program.

The Regional Anesthesia Fellow is actively supervised in all activities. The Acute Pain Service is staffed by an attending physician at all times. When the Fellow is assigned to weekend Acute Pain call, they make rounds with the Acute Pain attending physician as well as an advanced nurse practitioner on the Acute Pain Service. All procedures performed by the Acute Pain Fellow are personally staffed by the Acute Pain attending physician. The Acute Pain staff is available at all times by pager. If there are questions regarding the management of patients, the Fellows and residents are instructed to contact the attending physician on call to discuss their care plan. In the event that there is a procedure that 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.

Duty Hours

Operating room hours typically begin at 6:30 am with preparation of the first case and ends at 5 pm. Acute Pain call is from home. 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 Regional Anesthesia 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 fourth weekend call on duty, and spend on average at least one full day out of seven away from program duties. The staffing for the Regional Anesthesia 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. Call coverage from home is shared between 6-7 individuals per month for the Fellows (Pain Medicine Fellow or Regional Anesthesia Fellow) or residents and amongst six Pain Medicine faculty. Regional Anesthesia Fellows not on weekend call do not have clinical responsibilities.

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.