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UI Graduate Medical Education

Clinical Neurophysiology Fellowship Training Program Supervision and Duty Hour Policy **Department of Neurology**

The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics ensures that their GME programs provide appropriate supervision for all fellows, as well as a duty hour schedule and a work environment, that is consistent with proper patient care, the educational needs of fellows, and the applicable Program Requirements. On-call requirements are essential for an optimal educational environment and to ensure continuity of patient care. The number of fellows and faculty are monitored to prevent excessive frequency and length of on-call duty. The scheduling of on-call duty considers that clinical events do take place at any time. Safe, effective patient care, and a good learning environment require adequate periods of rest.

The frequency of on-call duty for fellows should be, on average no more than every third night. Fellows are required to spend on the average, at least one full day out of seven away from program duties. Hours actually worked by fellows must not exceed 80 hours per week when averaged over four weeks or the standards set by the applicable fellowship review committee. The program director must ensure adequate backup if sudden and unexpected patient care needs creates fatigue sufficient to jeopardize patient care during or following on-call periods.

1. Supervision: The University of Iowa provides institutional oversight to assure that fellows are appropriately supervised. Fellows are supervised by teaching staff in such a way that our fellows assume progressively increasing responsibility according to their level of education, ability, and experience. The teaching staff will determine the level of responsibility accorded to each fellow.
2. Duty Hours: The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics ensures that each fellowship program establishes formal written policies governing fellows duty hours that foster fellow education and facilitate the care of patients. Duty hours are consistent with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics policy and with the Program Requirements of the specialties and subspecialties that apply to each program. The formal policies of The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics must apply to all institutions to which a fellow rotates.
 - a. The educational goals of the program and learning objectives of fellows are not to be compromised by excessive reliance on fellows to fulfill institutional service obligations. However, duty hours reflect the fact that responsibilities for continuing patient care are not automatically discharged at specific times. Programs are monitored to ensure that fellows are provided appropriate backup support when patient care responsibilities are especially difficult or prolonged.
 - b. Fellows duty hours and on-call time periods must not be excessive. The structuring of duty hours and on-call schedules must focus on the needs of the patient, continuity of care, and the educational needs of the resident.