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**Department of Pediatrics  
Division of Pediatric Critical Care  
Policy for Fellow Supervision and Duty Hours**

**A. Supervision and Assignment**

Every PICU patient will have an attending pediatrician assigned who is responsible to assure the excellence of medical care and to supervise and teach Pediatric Critical Care fellows involved in the care of that patient. The PICU service will be continuously covered by a faculty member who is accessible at any time by means of the pager system. All fellows in the Division of Pediatric Critical Care at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics are supervised by faculty.

Fellows are given guidelines for supervision and are expected to discuss this with the program director at any time there is a need to deviate from these policies. Fellows are given increasing responsibility for patient care as they progress through the 3 years of fellowship training. Fellows are able to immediately reach a faculty member by pager at any time that they have a question regarding patient care, and every patient seen by a fellow is also seen by a faculty physician in the division. The program director has a meeting with each fellow every six months that provides an opportunity to address problems with supervision.

Fellows also provide supervision of pediatric residents rotating in the PICU. PICU attendings are present to oversee this supervision and to provide direct supervision to pediatric residents. Fellows are given increasing responsibility with respect to supervision of pediatric residents as they progress through the 3 years of fellowship training, however, faculty members in the Division of Pediatric Critical Care always participate in patient care and supervision of pediatric residents.

**B. Duty Hours**

The Division of Pediatric Critical Care policy on fellow work hours follows the guidelines set by UIHC and by the Residency Review Committee of Pediatrics and Pediatric Critical Care. This policy applies to all Pediatric Critical Care Fellows. Specific mandated guidelines include: at least one day out of seven when averaged over four weeks without assigned duties; a maximum of 80 hours/week when averaged over four weeks; at least 10 hours off between shifts, and call no more frequently than every third night. We have designed a schedule that complies with these rules on all rotations. Call free months are also built into the program. These policies on duty hours are presented to and reviewed with the fellows at their original orientation to the program. The faculty is aware of the expected work hours for the fellows while rotating in the PICU and on other rotations.

Currently fellows are assigned to take in-house call twice weekly during their rotations in the PICU. They leave the hospital on post call days by 12 pm and do not return until the next morning at 7am. They also take call from home one weekend/month during their rotations in the PICU.

During the weekend of home call, if the fellow returns to the hospital after 9pm they are relieved of their duties the next day at 12 noon, and do not return until the following morning. Fellows have access to on-call facilities when their call duties require in hospital overnight stay, and on any night that they are required to remain in the hospital for patient care, they must leave the hospital directly following rounds the next day (<30 hours continuously worked). During research months, anesthesia rotation, CV surgery, and other elective rotations fellows take in-house call one weeknight/week and are on call 2 or 3 weekend shifts (24 hrs)/month. All of the above described guidelines for duty hours apply during these rotations as well.

Fellows are instructed to log all hours worked into an electronic file which is monitored regularly by the program director. The program director will discuss any apparent issues with meeting duty hours requirements with the fellows when/if these conflicts occur. The program director will also independently spot check both hours worked by fellows and recording of these hours. The program director will also meet semi-annually with each fellow and at this time the program director will directly solicit any concerns about meeting duty hours guidelines.

Every fellow has the opportunity to evaluate each rotation and all supervising faculty that they work with via E-Value. This includes the opportunity to comment on the hours being worked on that rotation. In addition, the program director will monitor fellow stress, fatigue and work hours. If problems are noted, the program director can then immediately investigate the issue.