

**HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL**  
**HOUSE STAFF DUTY HOURS FOR SURGERY RESIDENTS**

<b>SUBJECT:</b> <b>HOUSE STAFF DUTY HOURS:</b> <b>GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY PROGRAM</b>	<b>GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION POLICY NO: 8240.1302</b>	<b>PAGE 1 of 2</b>
<b>AUTHORIZED APPROVAL:</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>June 21, 2007</b>	<b>SUPERCEDES/REPLACES</b> <b>March 23, 2006</b>

**PURPOSE**

To provide a General Surgery Residency Program statement regarding resident hours as required for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (“ACMGE”) and the Joint Commission by the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (“JCAHO”).

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Duty Hours will be completed by all surgical residents assigned to “hospital inpatient or on-call duty.” The following procedure will be followed to establish optimal house staff working hours and to ensure compliance to the aforementioned regulations.

**PROCEDURE**

It is the Program Director’s responsibility to establish a work environment optimal for both resident education and patient care, recognizing that residents’ efforts need to primarily reflect the continuity of patient care, and that patients have a right to expect a healthy, alert, responsible and responsive physician. Therefore, the hospital will adhere to the requirements as follows:

- a. Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.
- b. Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities.
- c. Continuous on-site duty, including in-house call, must not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Residents may remain on duty for up to 6 additional hours to participate in didactic activities, transfer care of patients, conduct outpatient clinics and maintain continuity of medical and surgical care. No new patients may be accepted after 24 hours of continuous duty. A new patient is defined as any patient for whom the resident has not previously provided care.

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- d. Residents must be provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a 4-week period, inclusive of call. One day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical, educational, and administrative activities.
- e. Adequate time for rest and personal activities must be provided. This should consist of a 10 hour time period provided between all daily duty periods and after in-house call.

Each resident is required to enter their duty hours into the Verinform online program. The residents will be trained on this program during orientation and individual tutoring will be available by the Chief Resident and Program Coordinator. The Program Director will review the duty hours on a monthly basis and meet with the resident if violations are reported. The Program is aware that there will be a learning curve during the first few months of the academic year but the resident is responsible for entering the correct hours and may be put on probation at the Program Directors' discretion if violations occur after consultation. The resident is advised to enter any explanation for violations as patient care is not to be compromised. Program administration must provide adequate backup, to ensure that patient care is not jeopardized, as well as support services to relieve residents from an inordinate amount of time on non-educational activities.