

RESIDENT PROFESSIONALISM STANDARD FOR INTERRUPTION OF PATIENT CARE

I. Rationale

To assure continuity of care and patient safety, ACGME requires a minimum number of patient care transitions and readily available schedules listing residents and attending physicians responsible for each patient's care. In addition to resident-to-resident patient transitions, residents must care for patients in an environment that maximizes effective communication among all individuals or teams with responsibility for patient care in the healthcare setting.

To assure that residents are well-equipped to accept responsibility for the health and safety of future patients, and to assist with a seamless transition from observing to providing quality patient care, every resident must be accountable for the treatment of any patient he/she encounters as though he/she were the sole provider of care and must treat all patients as the resident's own patients.

II. Policy

A. If a resident is aware of any conflict that may arise during the course of any upcoming procedure or patient care activity, whether such a procedure or activity is scheduled or emergent, that resident must inform the attending physician and/or Residency Program Director in advance to allow the physician or service to determine whether patient safety will allow for reasonable accommodations. It may be necessary to alter a resident's rotation schedule if breaks cannot be reasonably accommodated.

B. In surgical settings and other patient care activities, residents may not scrub out of surgical procedures, leave the operatory or any patient care setting for any non-emergent reason (e.g. medical conditions, breast feeding, or child or adult care). While emergencies will sometimes arise, in the event of an unforeseen emergency, residents must appropriately notify the attending physician of the emergency and seek the necessary permission to be excused only when and if the circumstances warrant. In absolutely no instance should a resident scrub out of surgery or leave the operatory without first informing the attending physician and obtaining permission to exit. Residents are expected to be compliant with current duty hour standards and program duty hour policies and procedures.

Consequences for failure to comply will be at the discretion of the Residency Program Director.

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