

VI.B- DUTY HOURS

Purpose: To ensure divisional compliance with ACGME and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Medical Education Program regulations and policies related to fellowship duty hours.

Scope: To provide fellows a sound academic and clinical education carefully planned and balanced with concerns for patient safety and resident well-being.

To ensure that the priority in learning is didactic and clinical and not excessively dependent on service.

Definition: All clinical and academic activities related to the fellowship i.e. time involved in patient care and conferences at the clinical sites. (They do not include time at home, spent reading and preparing).

Regulations: Averaged over a four-week period they must be **limited to 80 hours per week**. (There are **no** exceptions). This includes Moonlighting!

Averaged over a four-week period fellows **must be provided with one continuous 24-hour period free per week**.

A 10-hour time period for rest and personal activities is required between all daily duty periods.

Continuous on-site duty, including in-house call, must not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Fellows 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.

This policy **must be distributed to fellows and faculty**.

Responsibilities:

Geriatric Fellows are made aware of their duty hour requirements at the beginning of each rotation by the supervising Attending. They are required to record weekly hours worked on duty-hour slips and give them to the Administrator.

The Fellowship Administrator is responsible for obtaining the weekly duty-hour slips from fellows and processing them for review. The Administrator is also responsible for maintaining an accurate schedule for each fellow: defining the workday (start and end), coverage structures, and then making it available to faculty.

Fellowship Director/Associate Directors review duty-hour slips weekly to assure compliance with the regulations.