

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

DUTY HOURS POLICY

To: All Residents and Faculty

From: John Hunter, M.D. & Karen Deveney, M.D.

Re: Work hours and call schedules

As you are all aware, the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) has mandated strict compliance with an 80-hour maximum in-hospital work week, with a scheduled 24-hour day off weekly. We are committed to being in compliance with these mandates immediately. These requirements are described in the attachment. In addition to ACGME mandates, we are asking you to adhere to the following principles:

Department of Surgery Duty Hours Principles

1. Residents will track their own hours.
2. We will have periodic spot checks of work hours.
3. In order to average fewer than 80 hours per week, it is expected that a working day without night call is not to exceed 12 hours.
4. It is expected that all residents will leave the hospital when the work is done.
5. Residents finding themselves working more than an average of 80 hours per week or missing a 24 hour period off each week, should communicate this to the Surgery Education office either personally or by email.
6. Services that are consistently associated with excessive work hours will warrant immediate review.
7. Residents experiencing negative feedback about adherence to the work hours requirements and principles will report such comments immediately to the Surgery Education office.