



**Policy Number: GME 06**

**Policy Title: Substantial Disruptions in patient care or education Policy**

**Policy Statement:**

In the event of a disaster or extraordinary circumstances impacting the graduate medical education programs sponsored by Oregon Health & Science University, the GMEC establishes this policy to protect the well-being, safety and educational experience of residents enrolled in our training programs. The OHSU GMEC will rely on the OHSU plan for Emergency Preparedness for its residents/fellows in the event of a Disaster or Extreme Emergent conditions. This plan has many chapters, including communications and can be found at:

<https://o2.ohsu.edu/emergency-management/resources/upload/2017-Emergency-Operations-Plan.pdf>

The definition of a disaster or extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the ACGME as defined in their published policies and procedures ([https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/ab\\_ACGMEPoliciesProcedures.pdf](https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PDFs/ab_ACGMEPoliciesProcedures.pdf)). Following declaration of extraordinary circumstances, the GMEC, working with the DIO and other sponsoring institution leadership, will strive to restructure the educational experience.

In the event of a disaster or substantial disruption, continuation of salary, liability coverage and benefits will be dependent on the short- and long-term impact on each program and the institution overall. In addition, it will be dependent on current policies related to reimbursement. However, the University will make a reasonable effort to secure continuing support or reassignment for residents pursuant to this policy and the requirements of ACGME. Professional liability insurance will be provided to residents for claims that arise from their acts that occur within the course and scope of their duties at OHSU, regardless of when the claim is reported (even if the resident is no longer employed at the time the claim is reported).

Each program is encouraged to develop a disaster or extraordinary circumstances plan for the learners.

In order to maximize the likelihood that residents will be able to complete program requirements within the standard time required for certification in that specialty, the DIO and/or GMEC will make the determination that transfers to other programs are necessary and inform the ACGME of that decision within 10 calendar days, and will submit a plan for reconfiguration or transfer to the ACGME within 30 calendar days.

Once the DIO and GMEC determine that OHSU can no longer provide an adequate educational experience for its residents, they will to the best of their ability arrange for the **temporary transfer** of the residents to programs at other institutions, until such time as OHSU is able to resume providing the experience. Residents who transfer to other programs as a result of a disaster will be provided by their Program Directors an estimated time that the temporary relocation to another program will be necessary. Should that initial time estimate need to be extended, the residents will be notified by their Program Directors using written or electronic means identifying the estimated time of the extension.

If the disaster prevents OHSU from re-establishing an adequate educational experience within a reasonable amount of time following the disaster, then **permanent transfers** will be arranged.



School of Medicine Policy

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Effective Date: October 12, 2022

The DIO will be the primary institutional contact with the ACGME and the Institutional Review Committee Executive Director regarding disaster plan implementation and needs within OHSU.

Programs will be responsible for establishing procedures to protect the academic and personnel files of all residents from loss or destruction by disaster. This should include at least a plan for storage of data in a separate geographic location away from the sponsoring institution.

In the event of a disaster affecting other sponsoring institutions of graduate medical education programs, the program leadership at OHSU will work collaboratively with the DIO and the Fiscal Services Office to accept transfer residents from other institutions. This will include the process to request complement increases with the ACGME that may be required to accept additional residents for training and the transfer of CMS funding from the affected institution to OHSU. OHSU Programs currently under a proposed or actual adverse accreditation decision by the ACGME will not be eligible to participate in accepting transfer residents.

Policy Owner: Graduate Medical Education Committee

Amendment/Approving Committee: Graduate Medical Education Committee

Additional Resources

Table with 3 columns: Form/Document, Use, Links. It lists OHSU Emergency Operations Document and ACGME Policies and Procedures with their respective uses and links.

Version control

Table with 4 columns: Version, Effective Date, Author, Description of Change. It tracks three versions of the policy, from the original in 2015 to a revision in 2022.