

POLICY MANUAL

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Department of Primary Responsibility:
Academic Division – Graduate Medical
Education

Subject: Outside Professional Activity

Distribution: _____

POLICY

As a general rule, OCF house staff is prohibited from engaging in professional activity outside of their graduate medical education program during the period of their appointment. However, OCF recognizes that in a limited number of instances house staff might, of necessity, have to engage in clinical practice activities outside the formal framework of their respective training program during their period of appointment at OCF.

It should be understood that participation in any such professional activity outside the training programs should in no way conflict with the assigned clinical and educational responsibilities of the house staff at OCF or its formal affiliates. At no time are house staff required to engage in professional activity outside of their graduate medical education training program during the period of their appointment.

DEFINITION

Professional activity outside the training program means activities requiring the exercise of professional judgment involving a commitment of the trainee's time. The term refers to activities involving direct patient care, which are commonly referred to as "moonlighting" as well as engagements as a consultant on patient care matters. Serving as a utilization review consultant for insurance companies and other organization or as an expert witness solely for the purposes of advising or testifying regarding the appropriate standard of care is not permitted. Also, it is not necessary for house staff to obtain permissions as defined in this policy for activities arising out of professional contacts occurring as part of the training program, e.g., testifying at a disability hearing regarding the condition of a patient treated in the course of the trainee's assigned responsibilities.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

1. In order to ensure against an adverse effect between the house staff educational program responsibilities and such participation in professional activity outside the training program, each program director will be responsible for the clearance of requests to engage in such activities prior to the beginning of such activities.
2. Each house staff member wishing to participate in professional activity outside the training program must submit a request in writing to his/her respective program director setting for the circumstances necessitating the request.
3. The form for making such a request may be obtained from the program director.
4. The program director or designee will evaluate and respond to such requests on an individual basis.
5. A new request shall be made each program year.
6. Approval of each request shall be for no longer than a program year and may be revoked during the course of the year pursuant to program policy.

RESIDENT:

1. During the time an individual is participating in such professional activity outside the training program, the trainee should recognize that he/she participates as a private practitioner without any sponsorship by OCF or its program directors.
2. In addition, it will be the responsibility of each house staff that participates in professional activity outside the training program to ensure that he/she is appropriately licensed in the State of Louisiana. The 'Intern Card' issued by the state is not valid for professional activity outside the training program.
3. Further, it should be understood that the professional liability protection provided by the OCF does not protect the resident when he/she is engaged in clinical practice outside of the scope of the training program.
4. The house staff must obtain appropriate medical malpractice/professional liability coverage for any such professional activities.
5. Finally, the total hours worked by a house staff, including those hours worked as a part of their training program and those hours devoted to professional activity outside the scope of the training program may not:
 - a. Exceed a 80 hour week when averaged over a four week period or
 - b. The standard set by the applicable residency review committee.

Questions regarding the interpretation of this policy should be directed to respective program directors or to the GMEC.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT:

The Executive Vice-President /Chief Academic Officer is responsible for enforcement this policy through the Foundation for all graduate medical education training programs. Individual program directors are responsible for the consistent application of this policy within a training program.

Signatures

William W. Pinsky, M.D.
Executive Vice President for System Medical
Affairs/ Chief Academic Officer

Hector O. Ventura, M.D.
Chairman, Graduate Medical
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