

## On Call Policy

Being on-call provides the learning opportunity to be involved in the management of patients presenting to after hours as well as ill patients admitted to hospital. The following regulations apply for on-call scheduling.

There are two types of call: **evening call** and **overnight call**. Courses may involve either evening or overnight call or a combination of both. Course directors will determine the type(s) of call required on their respective courses in consultation with the Phase III Committee based on the educational objectives of the course. Student objective log data will be used to monitor the adequacy of call requirements for each course, as will student feedback which will generally be brought to the Phase III committee by the designated student representatives.

1. **Evening call** (following a regular working day) is from 5 pm until 10 pm. Students are expected to work a full day after an evening call shift.
2. **Overnight call** begins at 5 pm and lasts until 8 am the following day. Clerks are expected to handover to their team and may then leave “post-call”. Clerks should be relieved of all duties and home by 9 am at the latest. They are not expected to attend formal teaching, however are responsible for all the seminar topics and are expected to make up any missed sessions with independent study.
3. **If it is necessary for students on evening call to stay at the hospital past 11:00 pm, their call assignment will be considered overnight call and they will be relieved of all duties and home by 9am the following morning.**
4. The clerk's call shifts (both evening and overnight) will average out to 1 call shift every four days (over the course of a 6-week course).
5. Normally, in a four-week period, the clerk is only to be on call for one weekend. The clerk will be on call twice in the month consisting of one Friday/Sunday combination and one Saturday.
6. The clerk is not to be on call after 6 pm the night before an examination.
7. The clerk is not to be on call after 8:00 am the Saturday prior to any elective period to allow for travel.
8. Absence from call without permission is considered unprofessional.
9. If a student is unable to be on call, he/she is responsible for switching with another student on the same rotation. It is also the student's responsibility to notify all relevant parties (resident, nursing station, switchboard, etc).
10. Specific call requests must be submitted to the relevant course clerkship administrator (or other designated individual such as departmental administrator) in writing a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of the request.
11. If after a given rotation, a student must travel to a regional site, the student must inform the clerkship administrator not to schedule the student on overnight call on the last shift of the rotation. Similar to #9, this request should be made 6 weeks in advance.

Student safety is of paramount importance. Students assigned to evening call will be given the option of the Queen's walk-home service (where and when available), taxi fare (if walk-home not available) or overnight accommodation in the hospital following their shift.

Please note that the practice of switching call between blocks is not acceptable. Students may only switch call with other students currently on the same rotation. If you are having problems with call that you cannot work out with your residents, you will need to involve the Course Chair in the decision making process.