

# Undergraduate Medical Education

## Clerkship Clinical and Academic Activity Policy

*Curricular Component: Policy #CC-14 v2*

*Supersedes: On Call Policy #CC-01*

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### 1.0 Background

- 1.1. During Clerkship, learning occurs within the context of patient care (clinical activity) and during formal clerkship teaching sessions (academic activity).
- 1.2. Direct involvement in clinical activities occurs during both daytime hours and when "on call". These activities are an essential element of medical education and critical to the development of multiple physician competencies.
- 1.3. This policy is provided to define the parameters of the daytime activity hours (clinical and academic) as well as the "on call" component. The purpose is to ensure learner wellness while promoting an atmosphere within which learning can occur as clinical activities are engaged.
- 1.4. Being "on call" provides students the learning opportunity of being involved in the management of patients presenting after hours as well as that of patients admitted to hospital. 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 in their respective courses in consultation with the Director, Clinical Clerkship, based on the educational objectives of the course.

### 2.0 Policy

- 2.1. When not "on call", students should be out of the hospital for a minimum of 12 hours per 24 hour period.
- 2.2. Evening call (following regular daytime activity hours) is from 5 pm until 10 pm. Students are expected to participate in a full day of clinical and academic activity after an evening call.
- 2.3. Overnight call begins at 5 pm and lasts until 8 am the following day. Students are expected to handover to their team and may then leave "post-call". Students should be relieved of all clinical responsibilities and home by 10 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.

- 2.4. The student's call (both evening and overnight) will average out to no more than 1 call every four days (over the course of a 6-week course).
- 2.5. In a four-week period, the student is only to be on call for one full weekend-equivalent (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). For example, a student may be scheduled on call twice in the month consisting of one Friday/Sunday combination and one Saturday.
- 2.6. The student is not to be on call or shift after 6 pm the night before an examination.
- 2.7. In general, the student is not to be on call or shift after 10:00 am the last Sunday of the rotation, unless required to fulfil the educational requirements for the rotation. If the student is required to travel to or from Kingston for the start of their next placement, they are not to be on call or shift after 10:00pm on the last Saturday of the rotation.
- 2.8. 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 service is not available) or overnight accommodation in the hospital following their shift.
- 2.9. Absence from clinical and required academic activities (including on call) without permission is considered unprofessional and will be handled in accordance with the Student Professionalism Policy.
- 2.10. The Course Director is responsible for monitoring compliance with this policy.

### **3.0 Reporting of Policy Infringements**

- 3.1. Concerns from students, preceptors/faculty, residents or administrative staff regarding breaches of this policy should initially be brought to the attention of the Course Director. It is the Course Director's responsibility to intervene to resolve the issue(s).
- 3.2. If resolution is not satisfactory and/or there is a pattern of policy infringements, this should be reported to the Director, Clinical Clerkships. The Clerkship Director will facilitate resolution, in discussion with the relevant Course Director, academic department Chair, regional Site Lead, or designate regional provider network.
- 3.3. The designated student representatives will bring any issues or concerns about the policy to the Director, Clinical Clerkship for discussion at the Clerkship Committee.

- 3.4. In order to ensure anonymity in reporting individual concerns, students will be advised to utilize the mechanisms outlined in the Student Complaints Policy (SC-05)

[http://meds.queensu.ca/education/undergraduate/policies/student\\_complaints](http://meds.queensu.ca/education/undergraduate/policies/student_complaints)