



College of Medicine

Tucson

**SUBJECT: GME Policies and Procedures Related to Duty Hours Exceptions**

**Effective Date: July 1, 2011**

**APPROVAL:**

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Graduate Medical Education (DIO)**

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**DISTRIBUTION: Program Directors, Residents and Staff**

The University of Arizona  
College of Medicine at South Campus  
Graduate Medical Education Committee  
Policies and Procedures

#### Duty Hours Exceptions

**PURPOSE:** The ACGME has established guidelines to govern the maximum duty periods that residents may provide patient care before a required rest period. In unusual circumstances, residents, on their own initiative, may remain beyond their scheduled period of duty to continue to provide care to a single patient. Justifications for such extensions of duty are limited to reasons of required continuity for a severely ill or unstable patient, academic importance of the events transpiring, or humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family. Both individual residents and programs are required to track episodes of additional duty.

**POLICY:** The GME office will provide appropriate format for residents to document any extension of duty that conflicts with the ACGME Duty Hour requirements (see attached document). Program Directors will need to review each submission of additional service and track both individual resident and program-wide episodes of additional duty (see attached document). Quarterly, these tracking forms will be reviewed along with Duty Hour reports at GMEC meetings.

1. PGY1 residents must not exceed 16 hours in duration of service.
2. PGY2 and above residents who have exceeded the maximum 24 hours of continuous duty in the hospital, and choose to remain on duty must document each occurrence on the attached form. The form will be accessible via the GME website and must be submitted to the program coordinator within 72 hours of the occurrence.

3. If the resident does not complete and submit the form within 72 hours, the program coordinator will contact the resident and their mentor for immediate completion and submission.
4. Each submission will be noted on the programs' tracking form and both documents will be reviewed by the Program Director.
5. Quarterly, the program director will present the tracking form at the GMEC meeting for oversight.

Original	July 2011
1 <sup>st</sup> Revision	July 2012
2 <sup>nd</sup> Revision	February 2013