



Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Clinical and Education Work Policy (Duty Hours)

Policy Number: CU.08.01.170808

Applies to: All medical students assigned to participate in clinical and educational sessions

Date: 8/8/2017

1.0 Policy Statement:

It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) policy to maintain an appropriate balance between educational sessions, clinical activities and unscheduled time for all medical students that optimizes patient safety, student education, and student well-being.

2.0 Definitions

Clinical activities: May include, but are not limited to, direct patient care, patient rounds, patient documentation, case conferences and clinical lectures in healthcare delivery taking place as part of their clinical training.

Educational Sessions: Sessions delivered to students which are intended to impart knowledge.

Duty Hours: Hours students spend on their formal academic and clinical instruction.

3.0 Responsibilities

Clerkship Directors

Associate Dean of Clinical Education

4.0 Procedures

1. Clinical and education work is limited to a maximum of 80 hours per week to be consistent with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) policy standard. Clinical on call and work done from home must be counted toward the 80 hours. Students may voluntarily remain at work in unusual circumstances, if in their judgement, those circumstances benefit patient care or education. Such additional time will be counted toward the 80-hour limit.
2. Clinical work periods must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical work.
3. A 10-hour of off-duty time frame is required between work periods.
4. Students may be on call no more than every 4th night. Students must be provided with one (1) day in seven (7) free of all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four (4) week period, inclusive of call.
5. Fatigue education and fatigue management strategies are to be taught to students.

Clinical and Education Work Policy (Duty Hours) 8/8/2017

Reporting, managing and elimination of duty hour violations:

Students will be required to document duty hours in the portfolio. Students should report duty hour violations to the clerkship director with an explanation of the circumstances. Violations will be brought to the attention of the clerkship director and reported to the Clinical Experience (Year 3&4) Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee if a pattern of violations exists.

Clerkship Directors are responsible for oversight of student reported duty hours and any violations and for reporting to the Clinical Experience Subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee. Associate Deans of Clinical Education are responsible for resolving violations in duty hours.

5.0 Related Policies

N/A

6.0 Key Search Words

Duty hour restrictions, reporting violations
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7.0 Revision History

Original Approval	Policy number	Revision Date Approval
4/13/2016	CU.08.01.161216	8/8/2017

Responsible Office: Vice Dean for Student and Faculty Experience

Policy Contact: Associate Dean for Curriculum

Supersedes: CU.08.01.161216 Approved 4/13/2016