



POLICY: Rotation Changes/Scheduling

Policy:

When residents move from one rotation to another, they are required to have a break between the end of their last shift and the start of the next shift in the new rotation. They should not be expected to be on call and then start a new rotation. If they are on call the last night of one rotation, they must be off the first day of a new rotation.

Purpose:

The system whereby residents may be assigned to begin a new rotation immediately upon the completion of their last rotation can result in a violation of the rules mandating maximum 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments. In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:

- to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient;
- humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or
- to attend unique educational events

These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit. In some rare cases the resident is assigned to call too soon resulting in a violation of the “must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call”. By requiring residents to go home between rotations, this violation can be avoided.

Impact:

As schedules are being created for residents entering a new rotation, the scheduler will need to consult the previous rotation’s call schedule, including other services the residents may be rotating on, to make sure residents assigned at the very end of their last rotation are not assigned to immediately begin the new rotation. It is also incumbent upon the resident to anticipate potential clinical work and education hour violations during rotation transitions and proactively make efforts to notify the senior resident/chief resident of the affected departments.

(Original signed Policy is available in the UCSF Fresno Graduate Medical Education Office)

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