

Professionalism Statement

GMEC Approved: January 13, 2014

Professionalism encompasses commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Residents are expected to demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity, a responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supersedes self-interest; accountability to patients, society, and the profession; and a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development

Residents must also demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices as well as demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and disabilities. (ACGME. 1999)

I understand that professionalism is a core principle of training as a resident physician. Out of a commitment to patient safety and quality of care as well as the well-being of myself as a resident trainee, the Graduate Medical Education programs of Lehigh Valley Health Network are committed to compliance with duty hour regulations as outlined by The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and The American Dental Association (ADA).

Duty hours are inclusive of all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site. I understand that duty hour regulations include the following:

- Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house call and all internal and external moonlighting activities. (first year trainees are not permitted to moonlight and PGY2/3 must receive approval)
- One day in seven must be taken off, completely free from all educational and clinical responsibilities, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of call.
- A minimum of 10-hours must be taken off for rest between all daily duty periods and after in-house call.
- An Intern (PGY1) is limited to 16 hours of continuous duty as stated by the ACGME.
- Resident schedules may encompass assignments that require on-site duty, including in-house call; however the time may not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Residents may remain on duty for up to four additional hours to participate in didactic activities, transfer care of patients, conduct outpatient clinics, and maintain continuity of medical and surgical care.

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The program encourages residents to use alertness management strategies in the context of patient care responsibilities. Strategic napping, especially after 16 hours of continuous duty and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., is strongly suggested.

While certain patient care emergencies are to be expected and take priority over duty hour compliance, the general expectation is that I will take excellent care of my patients and work in a thoughtful and efficient manner so as to allow me to never compromise the quality of my clinical work while maintaining full compliance with duty hour regulations. Part of this will include trusting my professional colleagues to care for my patients with the same level of dedication and diligence that I would. This relationship and trust is also a core principle of professional development. My program leadership and attendings will continue to structure my workdays so as to avoid placing me in a position of needing to choose between patient care obligations and duty hour compliance.

Under those circumstances where the need to stay on duty is necessitated for 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 the resident must: appropriately hand over the care of all other patients to the team responsible for their continuing care; and, document the reasons for remaining to care for the patient in question and submit that documentation in every circumstance to the program director or chief resident.

Fatigue:

As a resident physician at Lehigh Valley Health Network it is your professional responsibility to present yourself each day being fit for duty; which includes the management of your time before, during, and after clinical assignments; recognition of impairment, including illness and fatigue, in yourselves and in your peers.

Strategic napping for PGY2's, especially after 16 hours of continuous duty and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., is strongly suggested.

Information on Fatigue is available on the GME website. Residents are urged to report any concern regarding duty hours, fatigue and other issues to the central GME Office in the Division of Education.

I understand and agree with the statements above. I will notify my Program Director or Chief Resident of any foreseeable duty hour violations as soon as possible and at the very latest twenty-four hours after the violation has occurred.

In the same manner, I will notify my PTD or Chief if I feel fatigued or recognize impairment, including illness and fatigue, in my peers.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

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