

**Undergraduate Medical Education Program**

**UGME Clerkship On Call Policy**

Approved by:	Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum Committee
Application/Scope:	
Approved Date:	December 2009; June 28 2012; May 22 2014
Review Date:	

**Night and Weekend Call**

Evening, night, and weekend call may be a required part of Dalhousie clerkship rotations. Decisions about the type of call to be required (in-house vs. home call) as well as the hours and frequency of call will be made by the individual Clerkship Director in consultation with their faculty and may differ among rotations and sites.

Clerks will not be asked to be on-call more frequently than 7 nights out of any 28-day period. The maximum period of time for in-house call will be 25 hours (24 hours plus a maximum of 1 hour for signover). Clerks who have been on call in-house will be dismissed at the end of 25 hours and are not required to attend clinics or teaching sessions on that day.

Clerks who take call from home must be able to return to the hospital within 20 minutes. Clerks taking call from home will not typically be excused from responsibilities the day after call. However, if the clerk has been called into the hospital between midnight and 6 a.m. or has been called repeatedly during that time period resulting in major disruption of sleep, he/she will be excused following morning sign-over (typically by 9 a.m.). In such situations the clerk must ensure that the relevant attending staff and clinical service are aware of his/her post-call status.

When the final night of the rotation is the Sunday before a new rotation starts, Clerks will not be on call past 10PM. Clerks who must move to a distant site for their next rotation will be dismissed no later than 6 p.m. 2 days before the next rotation begins, e.g., 6 pm on a Saturday if the next rotation begins on Monday morning.

A distant site is defined as outside of the home campus, in accordance to the *Release of Clerks from Service Prior to Examination Days policy*; outside being considered outside HRM for Halifax based students and greater than 120 km between the current and reporting site for New Brunswick based students.

During exam time please refer to the Clerkship Manual (p. 11) Policy Regarding Release of Clerks from Service Prior to Examination Days. This policy can be found at <http://undergraduate.medicine.dal.ca/policies.htm>

Pregnant clerks will be excused from overnight call and overnight shifts after 28 weeks gestation. Any student requiring additional accommodation should seek the support of the Student Affairs Office. Clerkship directors will work with pregnant students to adjust the educational experiences as needed in order to ensure the objectives are met. ■