

Augusta University  
House Staff Policies and Procedures

Policy HS 37.0 Graduate Medical Education during Emergencies	Source Graduate Medical Education Office
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1.0 Purpose

To provide Augusta University (AU) Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs broad guidance for the provision of patient care and medical education during emergencies.

2.0 Definition of emergency

Emergencies, as pertains to this policy, are significant events that necessitate deviation from the routine functioning of AU GME programs. Emergencies may be natural (hurricane, tornado, pandemic) or manmade (active shooter, bombing, chemical attack).

3.0 Scope of policy

An emergency does not have to have been officially declared by local, state, or federal leader in order for this policy to be enacted. A program director that recognizes a situation as an emergency may independently enact this policy.

4.0 Modification of educational curricula during emergencies

4.1 During an emergency, every effort should be made to preserve house officers' scheduled rotations and GME programs' educational curricula.

4.2 In order to stabilize house officer schedules, modification of faculty schedules should be prioritized above modification of house officer scheduled and educational curricula

4.3 The health of the public and the care needs of individual patients should be the principle reason for modifications of house staff schedules or educational curricula.

4.4 Modifications of house staff schedules or educational curricula should incorporate meaningful learning opportunities to the greatest extent possible. Service-oriented activities should be minimized or avoided altogether if possible.

4.5 Any modifications of educational curricula in response to an emergency should be discussed with the DIO, or others within the GME Office leadership, prior to implementation. If there is no time to do this beforehand due to the activity of the situation, the GME Office must be notified of all modifications as soon as possible after the fact, along with sufficient rationale.

5.0 Requirements that may never be violated in accordance with ACGME guidance

5.1 Clinical Work and Education Hour Requirements

The ACGME Common Program Requirements Section VI.F Clinical Work and Education Hour Requirements remain unchanged. Safety of patients and residents/fellows is the ACGME's highest priority, and it is vital all residents and fellows receive adequate rest between clinical duties.

5.2 Adequate Resources and Training

When caring for patients during the unique circumstances of an emergency, all residents, fellows and faculty members must be fully trained in treatment protocols, infection control protocols and procedures adopted by their local health care setting (e.g., personal protective equipment) for that situation. Clinical learning environments must provide adequate resources, facilities, and training to all providers in order to properly recognize and care for types of injuries and illnesses they are likely to encounter in the emergency setting.

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5.3 Adequate Supervision

Any resident or fellow who provides care to patients in an emergency setting will do so under the appropriate supervision for the clinical circumstance and the level of education of the resident/fellow. As a prerequisite, faculty members are expected to have been adequately training to practice in the emergency setting.

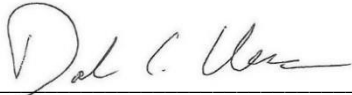
5.4 Fellows Functioning in their Core (Primary) Specialty

Fellows in ACGME-accredited programs can function within their core specialty (i.e., the specialty in which they completed their residency), consistent with the policies and procedures of the Sponsoring Institution and its participating sites, if:


- a. They are American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) board-eligible or board-certified in the core specialty;
- b. They are appointed to the medical staff at the Sponsoring Institution; and,
- c. Their time spent on their core specialty service is limited to 20 percent of their annual education time in any academic year.

6.0 Specific guidance provided by the ACGME

The GME Office will monitor the ACGME website during large scale emergencies and communicate any ACGME policies and guidance directly to program directors, program coordinators, and other leadership as appropriate.

  
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Dean, Medical College of Georgia

7/1/21  
Date

  
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Natasha M. Savage, M.D.  
Interim Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education and  
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7/1/21  
Date