

Clinical Clerkship Call Policy

As part of clerkship, clinical clerks are required to take call on some rotations. Some of these rotations will include “in house” call and others will involve call from home. On call experience is considered to be an important learning opportunity. Being on call does not necessarily entitle a student to be excused from clinical duties because they are “post-call” subject to the specific policies outlined below,

This on-call policy, as approved by the CEC, applies to all rotations.

- Clinical Clerks will not be scheduled for in-hospital duty more than:
 - one night in three
 - one weekend in three. The weekend duty will be calculated over the average length of the block

Requests from residents or others to do call more frequently than this should be discussed with the consultant(s) on the particular service and/or the Clerkship Coordinator for the hospital.

- Students doing in house call are excused from clinical duties the day following call after an adequate time for handover of patient care responsibilities. This does not apply to educational responsibilities (e.g. lectures and seminars). Students should be aware that during holiday periods, the expectations for call may be heavier.
- In those departments where the clerk is required to do shift-work (emergency room, ICU, etc) the guideline is a maximum work week of 60 hours or 5 shifts of 12 hours each.
- A clinical clerk will not be expected to take call “from home” for two consecutive weekends.
- Home-call will not exceed more than one night in two.
- For students doing call from home, they may be excused from clinical duties the day following call if they have had less than 4 hours of sleep due to their clinical duties while on call. If such an occasion arises, the clerk must notify the most senior resident on the service prior to leaving the hospital and review why they need to be excused from clinical duties.
- All students must round with their teams the morning following call and should be excused from clinical duties once morning rounds are complete
- All students must attend the teaching seminar for that day if the seminar commences at 9:00 am or earlier. If the seminar occurs later in the day, they are excused from the seminar for that day. Students are still responsible for the educational content taught during sessions post-call.
- A clerk who has been on-call the day before leaving a service will not be required to take call on the first day of a new service
- On the last day of a block, call will be over at 1800 hours.

Any questions or conflicts with respect to the call policy should be reviewed with the Clerkship Coordinator, Dr Michael Rieder, or brought to the attention of the student representatives on the CEC.

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