STATEMENT 3.2.1 – Standards for On-Call and Workload Policy for Clerkship

Undergraduate Medical Education

Approved by: Curriculum Committee
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I. PURPOSE

The Doctor of Medicine Program (the Program) course Meds 5475 Clinical Clerkship supports clinical learning in hospitals and other health care facilities. In the process of this stage of medical education, students will be asked to undertake workloads that involve delivering weekend and evening patient and family care as part of a supervised health care team.

This Statement will guide students and faculty in allocating responsibilities for patient care and learning in Clerkship.

II. DEFINITIONS

On –Call: Hospital practice referring to a status in which a physician can be reached and arrive at the hospital within 30 minutes of being paged

Workload: The amount of work that a clerk can or is expected to perform

Working Hours: Delivering direct patient care.

III. STATEMENT

a. The total number of hours a clinical clerk can be expected to work in a week shall not exceed 60 hours, including on-call working hours.
   i. These hours include both clinical and education hours.

b. For a reference to the call policy, please see the Schulich Medicine Program On-Call Policy.

c. It is the responsibility of every site director for each clerkship rotation to actively monitor adherence to all aspects of this standard and to intervene if any are breached.

d. Concerns from students, teachers, or administrative staff members regarding breaches of the standard should be brought to the attention of the supervisor for the rotation in the first instance. If the response is unsatisfactory or if a pattern of breaches emerges, the matter should next be raised with the block coordinator for review and possible redress. If continued non-compliance occurs, the issue should be reported to the Chair of the Clerkship and Electives Committee and/or the Learner Equity & Wellness (LEW) office for response in a timely manner and recommendations.

e. If notified of a concern, the block coordinator shall consider all of the following:
   i. Ensure that the student is safe and is not experiencing any personal health issues.
   ii. If support from LEW is relevant refer the student to the LEW office.
   iii. Approach the direct supervisor of the student to clarify their expectations of the student and rotation, and remind them of the Schulich Medicine Workload Policy for Clerkship.
   iv. Maintain records of the discussions with the student and faculty.