

## **ATTENDING PHYSICIANS TEACHING AND SUPERVISION POLICY**

This policy is designed to:

- a. Provide guidelines for teaching responsibilities for attending physicians of the medical residents and students at the University of Maryland Medical Center, the VA Medical Center and Mercy Medical Center.
- b. Delineate patient management and teaching goals for the attending, including schedule for making rounds and patient discharges.

### **1. Attending Rounds:**

- a. Attending rounds are held seven days each week, beginning at 9 a.m. on Mondays through Fridays and by 8 a.m. on the weekend. Rounds should last no longer than 2 hours and be done by 11 a.m. on weekdays, depending on the call cycle. An attending must see all patients within 24 hours of admission. Rounds in the CCU and MICU are discussed in policies for those units.
- b. Attendings will discuss the team's educational and clinical objectives with the team at the beginning of the month. These may include but are not limited to:
  - i. Performing daily presentations on pertinent topics.
  - ii. Bedside teaching with emphasis on the physical examination.
  - iii. Improving presentation skills.
  - iv. Utilizing the primary literature for support of diagnostic and therapeutic decisions.
  - v. Creating a positive learning atmosphere.
  - vi. Improving skills in managing patients with certain illnesses.
  - vii. Developing inclusive problem lists.
- c. Attending rounds are a combination of teaching and patient management rounds with an emphasis on the former. A minimum of 6 hours per week must be devoted to teaching rounds. Attendings should not "run the board" during attending rounds, but rather meet with the team resident at a later time to discuss patient management issues in a focused and educational manner.
- d. The attendings physician will emphasize bedside teaching during rounds and perform a focused physical examination during attending rounds.
- e. Attending rounds are conducted at a resident level with encouraged participation of the medical students.

### **2. Patient Care:**

- a. The attending will ensure that patient discharges occur in a timely fashion with the necessary paper work completed so that the patient can be discharged by 12 p.m.
- b. The R-1 resident must complete discharge dictations within 24 hours of discharge.
- c. Attending physicians are the physician-of-record for all service patients on their team. The necessity of writing admission notes and documentation of clinical progress on these patients is determined by the Billing Office.
- d. All residents, including the R2-5 ward resident, must have 4 days off each 4-week block. Therefore, the attending will assume supervisory responsibilities during the day that the resident is off.
- e. On days in which the R1 resident is off, the supervising resident will write the daily progress note, unless other arrangements are made with the members of the team.

### **3. Teaching Responsibilities:**

- a. The attending is responsible for ensuring excellence in resident presentations and maintaining an academic approach to rounds, including:
  - i. Analyzing the history, physical exam, lab tests and treatment
  - ii. Discussing relevant pathophysiologic processes

- iii. Emphasizing the practical aspects of medical care of patients
  - iv. Reviewing the differential diagnosis
  - v. Involving the team in a Socratic discussion
  - vi. Examining patients with an emphasis on teaching at the bedside
  - vii. Utilizing the literature to support diagnoses, evaluation and therapeutic approaches
  - viii. Using a cost conscious approach to evaluation and medical care
  - ix. Reviewing the charts
- b. Attendings must be available at all times during the month, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. If absence outside of Baltimore cannot be avoided, alternate attending coverage must be provided by the attending. Attending absence from their assigned month is discouraged.
  - c. The third year junior clerkship is one of the Department's most important educational responsibilities. The attending will allow the student to present his/her cases at attending rounds and will review the write-up in detail. Separate teaching sessions with the students are expected.
  - d. Providing individual feedback to residents and students is critical. Attendings must meet with each of these individuals at the mid point of the block as well as the end of the month to discuss their performance in detail and certify that this meeting occurred on the resident's evaluation form. Any concerns must be brought to the attention of the Program Director immediately.
  - b. Attendings must ensure that residents attend their required conferences, including Morning Report, Grand Rounds, CPC and Ambulatory Care Seminar. Attendings should strive to complete attending rounds within 2 hours to allow residents to continue their clinical duties so that they can attend noon conferences. Longer attending rounds are expected on post-call days for VA general medicine teams.

Reviewed and Approved at Town Meeting: 10-17-94  
 Updated 3/2005, 7/2007, 7/2009