

Standards for call duty and student workload in the Clerkship

Approved by: Undergraduate Medical Education Executive Committee

Date of original adoption: 17 May 2011

Date of last review: 15 January 2013

Date of last amendment: 15 January 2013

Date of next scheduled review: 17 May 2015

The maximum on-call frequency in all clinical clerkship courses is one night in four averaged across the entire rotation duration. Clerks must not be scheduled for call duty the evening before an examination or on the last day of a six- or eight-week block (usually a Sunday), nor on the Fridays before (a) the December holiday period, (b) the CaRMS interview period, (c) the March Break, and (d) the last rotation of the academic session.

After being available for service in-hospital for twenty-four consecutive hours, clerks must be relieved of all service and educational duties until the commencement of the next working day, after ensuring adequate handover of patient care responsibilities. Such handover shall not exceed two hours, for a total of twenty-six consecutive hours in the hospital.

For rotations that include an on-call requirement that extends into the evening but is not overnight and where students are expected back to work the following day, the on-call period must end by 11:00 pm.

Students shall not be asked or expected to exceed the limits specified above under any circumstances.

If a course or the Clerkship as a whole has designated certain educational activities as mandatory, then students must be relieved of their duties at midnight of the preceding day. Alternatively, such mandatory educational activities can be scheduled first-thing in the morning to enable post-call students to attend within their twenty-six hour limit.

If a student is not on call or on shift, he/she shall not work on a weekend day.

Across the duration of a rotation, the average number of hours per day that a student spends in total in required clinical and didactic experiences shall not exceed 12, excluding days on which the student is on-call or post-call.

A medical student who is pregnant will not be required to participate in on-call duty after 31 weeks' gestation unless agreed to otherwise by the medical student.

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

Concerns from students, teachers, or administrative staff members regarding breaches of the standard should be brought to the attention of the site director in the first instance. If the response is unsatisfactory or if a pattern of breaches emerges, the matter should next be raised with the course director for review and possible redress. If continued non-compliance occurs at one or multiple sites after the course director has intervened, the issue should be reported to the Clerkship Director and relevant University Department Chair for immediate response.