

**University of Connecticut Health School of Medicine**  
**Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology**  
**Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine**

**Fellowship Duty Hours Policy**

The University of Connecticut Health Center School of Medicine requires that each house-staff training program have a written policy on duty hours. In accordance with this requirement, this will be the policy of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship policy on duty hour guidelines. This policy is a modification of the institutional policy.<sup>1</sup>

1. Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities and includes; patient care (inpatient and outpatient), all administrative duties related to patient care, in-house call, scheduled academic activities (e.g., conferences, morning report, lectures, etc.), and research that is a required part of the residency program.
2. Duty hours, as defined above, are limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period
3. The duty schedule will provide you with one day [a continuous 24-hour period] in seven free from all clinical and academic activities, averaged over a four-week period.
4. The duty schedule will provide you with at least an eight-hour rest period [a period free of any of the activities listed in #1] between daily and in-house duty calls.
5. In-house call will be scheduled no more frequently than every third night, averaged over a four-week period. In order not to violate this requirement, you may not switch duty calls with other fellows without prior notice and approval of the division director. The call schedule for fellows will be developed according to the Fellowship Call Structure Guidelines [Supplement 1].
6. After being on duty in the hospital for a continuous 24-hour period you can remain on duty for up to six additional hours the following day. During this time you can participate in: required educational activities, be involved in the continuity of care or transfer care of established patients, conduct outpatient continuity clinics. Patients seen during this six hour time period must be established and not new patients. A new patient is one for whom the resident has not previously provided care. This continuity care can involve performance of surgical procedures.
7. You will not be assigned or accept new patients after a continuous 24-hour duty call unless there is prior approval.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Personal Policies & Procedures for Residents and Fellows: The Capital Area Health Consortium & University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals:  
Duty Hours – Section 3.C.8 – pages 57-58

<sup>2</sup> Unless permitted specifically by the accrediting body of the fellowship program.

8. To assist in monitoring duty hour compliance after an in-house call, you must call the fellowship Program Coordinator [Bonnie Voight – 679-4363] and notify her of the time that you are leaving the hospital at the end of the six-hour duty limit. This time will be noted on a special copy of the monthly call schedule. In the event that your call is on a Friday night, then leave her a voice mail message on Saturday indicating the date and time you left the hospital.
9. At-home call is not counted toward the duty hour limit. At-home call does not have to be limited to no more than every third night. However, when taking at-home call you will still have one day in seven free from all clinical and academic responsibilities, averaged over a four-week period. When taking at-home call, if you need to come into the hospital the in-house time is applied to the duty hour limit.
10. Moonlighting activities must comply with the institution's policy on moonlighting.<sup>3</sup> Moonlighting must be counted toward the duty hour limit and must comply with all other duty hour requirements, **including the MFMDivision Moonlighting Policy**. Moonlighting must be approved by the fellowship program director and adhere to the moonlighting policy of the fellowship program.
11. **Once the duty hour schedule has been approved, fellows cannot make changes to their scheduled work hours unless they have been approved by the Division Director.**

The Committee on Graduate Medical Education (CGME) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the duty hour requirements. It shall carry out this charge through review and monitoring of the quarterly duty hour reports, periodic written surveys of residents, and random unannounced interviews of residents. **A hotline has been set up to allow you to anonymously report violations of this duty hour policy [860/ 679 – 4353].**

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<sup>3</sup> Personal Policies & Procedures for Residents and Fellows: The Capital Area Health Consortium & University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals: Duty Hours – Section 3.C.8 – pages 57-58

### **MFM Fellowship Duty Hours Policy- Supplement 1**

- 1) When Maternal-Fetal Medicine has weekend call in-house, the fellow will only take in-house calls if it is on a Sunday. Fellows who are assigned to the Saint Francis Hospital rotation will go back to Saint Francis Hospital to make rounds on established patients and or will work on ongoing projects until their post call time limit is reached.
- 2) When the Maternal-Fetal Medicine weekend in-house call is on a Saturday, the MFM attending on call with fellow that weekend will do in-house call.
- 3) The second year fellow (PGY 6 ) will not take in-house call on any Wednesday.
- 4) When first year (PGY 5) fellows have in-house call on a Tuesday, they should go to Grand Rounds at NBGH the following day. After Grand Rounds, they can stay until the post call time limit if they are working on a project at NBGH or seeing established patients with the on-site MFM attending. Otherwise they should leave after Grand Rounds. If there is no Grand Rounds lecture scheduled, fellows can go to NBGH if they will be working on a project or if they will be seeing established patients with the on-site MFM attending.
- 5) When the third year fellow (PGY 7) is on the ultrasound service he/she can take in-house call days other than on Fridays, only if approved by the Program Director.
- 6) During the third week of the month when it is a Fellows Core Curriculum Meeting week, no fellow will take in-house call on the Monday night before the fellows' meeting.

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Fellow signature

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Date