

**YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE POLICY**

MEDICAL STUDENT CLINICAL WORK HOURS

Background

In order to address the effects of fatigue and sleep deprivation on learning, patient care and student well-being, the medical school determines and monitors the amount of time medical students spend in required educational activities.

Policy

- Medical students' work hours will follow the ACGME clinical and educational work hours requirements for residents as outlined in depth on the following site: [ACGME Duty Hours](#)
- Work hours are limited to time spent in the hospital and/or other clinical setting caring for patients and attending related educational activities.
- There are no on-call responsibilities during the required clerkships. Students who participate in night float or night shift during a required clerkship do so in replacement of their regular day shift.
- Students may take call in sub-internships.* When they do, the following requirements must be met:
 - Clinical work periods must not exceed 24 continuous hours.
 - Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care, and/or resident education.
 - Students must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work after 24 hours of clinical assignments.
- Calculation of work hours does not include reading, studying, write-ups and academic preparation time outside of required clinical activities. As an example, a student who comes to the hospital at 7am and stays until 10pm will have 15 hours of work time. A student could then go home and read to prepare for rounds the next day. This time at home reading is not considered part of work hours. In such a case the student would have 10p to 7a work free (no direct patient care responsibilities or required educational in-hospital activities) before the next work period.
- Monitoring will include the following:
 - Work hours will be monitored by each Clerkship Director and/or by each Elective/Sub-I Director.
 - As part of the routine electronic evaluation of the rotation, students will be asked whether they worked in excess of the ACGME guidelines described above.
 - Student concerns about work hours and reports of time spent in excess of the policy standard will be pulled from the system every 6 months. Responses indicating work hours above ACGME requirements will be

sent to the Clerkship Director and to the Department Chair. The Clerkship Director will indicate to the Office of Curriculum how they plan to address the concern.

- Findings will be reported to the Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC) each year.

**If call is required in a sub-internship, students must be provided a room, lounge, or other space for rest.*