



Department of Pathology

DUTY HOURS / ON-CALL / MOONLIGHTING POLICY

Policy: The Department of Pathology complies with all duty hours requirements and moonlighting policies established by the ACGME and the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). These written policies are distributed to the residents each year and updated as needed.

The regular working hours (duty hours) are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents are expected to arrive early or stay after 5 p.m. to complete assigned duties. PGY-2 through PGY-4 level residents take pager call (at-home) on weeknights and weekends/holidays, and are free from all responsibilities 1 day in 7, averaged over a 4-week period. Scheduled duty hours do not exceed 80 hours per week, and residents are provided a minimum 10 hour time period between scheduled daily duty periods. If there are inevitable and unpredictable circumstances that occur in which a resident's duty hours are prolonged, then they must have a minimum of 8 hours free between scheduled duty periods and after call. Continuous on-site duty does not exceed 24 consecutive hours. Residents average 45-52 duty hours per work week and a variable number of hours on weekend call covering anatomic, autopsy, and clinical pathology. Time spent in the hospital by residents on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly duty hour limit.

Resident call is based on a rotating schedule and covers both anatomic and clinical pathology. The chief resident submits the yearly call schedule before July 1st. Holiday calls are divided based on seniority and number of holiday calls taken. PGY1's do not take call and are limited to a maximum of 16 hours of continuous duty in hospital.

The anatomic and clinical pathology faculty members are always available to assist with problems or to sign-out cases as needed. The resident must notify the appropriate staff physician(s) and other appropriate personnel as well as the hospital telephone operator if there is a change in phone or pager number. Failure to comply with this notification procedure is considered to be gross negligence and a significant breach of medical responsibility.

The Program Director and the faculty monitor the demands of at-home call and make scheduling adjustments as necessary to mitigate excessive service demands and/or fatigue.

Duty Hours Monitoring: Resident duty hours will be monitored by the pathology program director as well as the UMC Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). Each resident will log in duty hours in the MedHub system. In addition, residents may be asked to fill out a duty hour form for the GMEC. External Moonlighting must be monitored and tracked in addition to In-House Moonlighting and must be counted toward the 80-hour Maximum Weekly Hour Limit (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms).

Moonlighting: Moonlighting activities are monitored by the program director to ensure that the resident's education is not compromised. Written acknowledgement of moonlighting activities



Department of Pathology

are completed by the resident annually and kept in each resident's file. The effect of moonlighting on the resident's performance will be monitored and adverse effects may lead to withdrawal of permission to engage in moonlighting activities.

In Mississippi, it is illegal and/or grounds for loss of temporary or limited medical licensure for any resident or fellow in training to engage in moonlighting unless in possession of an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the state. Residents are not required to engage in moonlighting; further, the University of Mississippi Medical Center discourages moonlighting by residents or fellows apart from full-time UMMC-sponsored or ACGME-sanctioned postgraduate educational programs because these activities tend to interfere with the educational process and health of the physician in-training.

The UMMC professional liability program for residents only applies to those professional activities within the course and scope of their employment while at UMMC and/or on an official rotation at other hospitals or clinics. It does not apply to outside professional activities such as moonlighting. The UMMC institutional DEA number must not be used while moonlighting.