

This policy applies to: The General Surgery Training Program	Last Approval Date: June 2011
Name of Policy: Protocol for episodes when residents remain on duty beyond scheduled hours	Reference Number to ACGME Common Program Requirements: [CPR VI.G.4.b).(3)]

Protocol for Remaining Beyond Scheduled Duty Period:

In unusual circumstances, residents, on their own initiative, may remain beyond their scheduled period of duty to continue to provide care to a single patient. Justifications for such extensions of duty are limited to reasons of required continuity for a severely ill or unstable patient, academic importance of the events transpiring, or humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family.

Under those circumstances, the resident must appropriately hand over the care of all other patients to the team responsible for their continuing care; and, document the reasons for remaining to care for the patient in question in MedHub and notify the program director. The program director must review each occurrence of additional service in MedHub, and track both individual resident and program-wide episodes of additional duty.

To ensure that this does not become a reoccurring issue, the Program Director must sign off on the resident staying beyond their scheduled hours. The program director must discuss the circumstances that required the resident to stay and evaluate the situation to see if there is anything that can be done in the future to prevent this from happening again.

If this becomes a reoccurring issue, the program director will formally warn the resident and then try and find out what is causing the reoccurrence (i.e. problem in the OR policies and/or staff, call schedules need to be changed, etc.)