

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE **HOSPITALS AND CLINICS**

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

HOUSESTAFF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

OFFSITE LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR HOUSESTAFF

Section 5 No. 2 Rev. 2

Review Date: August 2008

Revision Date: January 2004

Chapter: Liability Coverage

I. PURPOSE:

To outline the procedures which must be followed to ensure housestaff have liability coverage at all rotation sites.

II. POLICY

The University of Utah housestaff liability policy indicates liability insurance is provided by each affiliated hospital for the residents rotating there. These include University Hospital and any hospital with which University Hospital has a current major affiliation agreement. In addition, many programs use other clinical entities within the state of Utah to provide regular training rotations for their residents, and maintain formal Training Program Agreements with these entities. Residents working within the scope and responsibility of their residency training, and working at a training site covered by a major affiliation agreement or a formal Training Program Agreement, are considered to be working "on site" and are covered under University Hospital's, affiliated hospital's or other training site liability insurance. If a resident is rotating at a site which is not an affiliated hospital or other approved training site covered by a Training Program Agreement, then that resident is considered to be "off site."

III. PROCEDURE:

In order for houseofficers to receive liability insurance coverage when working "off site," that training rotation must be approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee. The approval must be given prior to the rotation; coverage is not retroactive. Official approval of an off site training location by the GMEC requires the following:

1. A complete description of the rotation's goals and objectives, including the reasons why the rotation needs to be outside an affiliated institution.
2. Appointment of the housestaff preceptor to the clinical faculty.
3. Documentation of annual review of the program.
4. Description of the screening process whereby a particular resident is selected for the location.
5. Evidence that the houseofficer is evaluated by the preceptor and the preceptor is evaluated by the houseofficer.

Once the program has the approval of the GMEC, an Off-Site Training Agreement (see Policy Sec. 12 No. 7) must be completed for each rotation. It must be completed in advance, and approved by the GME Office prior to the start of the rotation for coverage to be in effect.

Houseofficers are considered employees of the state of Utah and when they are working in an official capacity fall under the Utah Governmental Immunity Act for liability coverage. This act

may not cover housestaff out of state. Therefore, programs are urged not to let houseofficers train out of state unless there is evidence that they are covered for liability insurance during that rotation. Neither University Hospital nor any affiliated hospital will cover houseofficers who are rotating outside the state of Utah.

Approval body: Graduate Medical Education Committee
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Policy Owner: Graduate Medical Education

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