I. PURPOSE:

The University of Utah Health is committed to excellence in the educational experiences provided for trainees, and is committed to excellence in patient care provided by those individuals. Residency is a full time endeavor, and moonlighting is discouraged. Trainees who wish to moonlight must ensure that any moonlighting activity they seek to engage in does not interfere with their ability to meet the goals of the educational program or with safe patient care.

Trainees must comply with the Graduate Medical Education Policy on Work Hours, GME 10.1. Each School of Medicine department must develop an internal policy regarding moonlighting, or other extra-curricular professional activities.

It is the responsibility of the trainee to obtain written permission to moonlight from the Program Director prior to beginning the moonlighting activity. This is true for both Internal Moonlighting and External Moonlighting. For each instance of moonlighting, a Moonlighting Authorization Form must be completed and signed by all parties and submitted to the GME Office prior to the moonlighting activity. The Moonlighting Authorization Form may be obtained from the GME Office, MedHub, or Pulse.

II. DEFINITIONS:

"Trainee" means a physician in a graduate medical education training program.

"Moonlighting" means additional patient care activities for additional pay that is separate from the resident's or fellow's UUH Training Program.

"Internal Moonlighting" refers to patient care activities that take place at UUHC facilities. This work must be supervised by faculty and is not to exceed the level of clinical activity currently approved for the trainee. While performing internal moonlighting services, residents are not to perform as independent practitioners. (Fellows, including ACGME fellows, may function independently at a UUHSC facility only if they have obtained a University of Utah School of Medicine faculty appointment and have obtained privileges on the UUH Medical Staff. For more information on this subject, see the UUH Compliance Policy on Fee Billing for Trainees in Accredited Programs.)

"External Moonlighting" refers to patient care activities that take place at facilities other than UUH facilities.
III. APPLICABILITY:

Moonlighting includes Internal Moonlighting and External Moonlighting.

IV. POLICY:

1. No trainee may be required, as a condition of his or her UUH Training Program, to perform moonlighting activities.

2. Federal Regulations prohibit trainees working under J-1 Visas to moonlight.

3. If the training program allows moonlighting, trainees in an Accredited UUH Training Program may moonlight, but only after submitting a Moonlighting Authorization Form and receiving the prior written approval of his/her Training Program Director. A copy of this approval must be maintained in the trainee’s file. A copy of this approval form must also be submitted to and maintained in the GME office.

4. A trainee must have obtained an unrestricted license to practice in the state in which the moonlighting activity is to take place. A trainee must also have an individual practitioner, “fee paid” DEA license for external moonlighting activities.

5. Trainees may not work more than 80 hours per week. Both hours worked as part of the UUH educational program, as well as hours worked performing both Internal and External Moonlighting activities, count in the 80 hour work week limit. Program Directors must include both Internal and External Moonlighting hours in the Duty Hours Report.

6. Trainees are prohibited from moonlighting while on-call (including home call) for his/her program.

7. Moonlighting activities, whether internal or external, are prohibited if they interfere with the trainee’s educational experience or jeopardize patient safety. The Training Program Director must monitor the effect of the moonlighting activities on the trainee’s performance. The Residency Program Director or GME Director may withdraw permission for moonlighting activities at any time if either determines, in their sole discretion, that the moonlighting is negatively impacting the trainee’s participation in the training program.

8. A trainee who intends to bill for internal moonlighting activities must have obtained a University of Utah School of Medicine faculty appointment and privileges through the University Medical Staff Office.

9. The department, program and/or employee must receive written approval from the UUH Risk Management Committee regarding professional liability insurance coverage. Such written approval is included in the Moonlighting Authorization
Form. If not covered by UUH professional liability insurance, the trainee must obtain his/her own professional liability insurance.

10. A trainee who plans to moonlight at non-UUH facilities must secure his/her own professional liability insurance.

Approval body: Graduate Medical Education Committee
Approval date: 2/06, 5/06
Policy Owner: Graduate Medical Education

Historical Information:
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