Policy 3.600 Graduate Medical Education Committee
Section Resident/Fellow Supervision/Work Environment
Subject Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education
Policy Requirements ACGME Institutional: 4.14 ACGME Policy and Procedures to Address Extraordinary Circumstances, 25.00
Version History Last Revision: 11/2022 Current Version: 9/2025 Legal Review: 10/2022

Purpose

To address administrative support for University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited programs and residents/fellows in the event of a disaster or other substantial disruption in patient care or education. To provide information about the assistance for continuation of salary, benefits, professional liability coverage, and resident/fellow assignments.

Policy

1. Following declaration of a disaster, the UAMS Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and UAMS Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) will strive to restructure or reconstitute the educational experience as quickly as possible in order to maximize the likelihood that residents/fellows will be able to complete program requirements within the standard time required for certification in that specialty.

2. If the DIO and GMEC determine that the Sponsoring Institution (SI) can no longer provide an adequate educational experience for its residents/fellows, the SI and its ACGME accredited programs will follow the process identified in *ACGME Policy and Procedures to Address Extraordinary Circumstances, 25.00*.

3. The SI will, to the best of its ability, arrange for the temporary transfer of the residents/fellows to programs at other SIs until such time as UAMS College of Medicine (COM) is able to resume providing an adequate educational experience. Residents/Fellows who transfer to other programs because of a disaster will be provided by their Program Director with an estimated time that relocation to another program will be necessary. Should that initial time estimate need to be extended, the resident/fellow will be notified by their Program Director using written or electronic means identifying the estimated time of the extension.

4. If the disaster prevents the SI from re-establishing an adequate educational experience within a reasonable amount of time following a disaster, then permanent transfers will be arranged.

5. The DIO will be the primary institutional contact with the ACGME and the Institutional Review Committee Executive Director regarding disaster plan implementation and needs within the SI.

6. The Assistant Dean for Housestaff Affairs will be the primary institutional contact regarding assistance for continuation of salary and benefits during the disaster declaration period. Each Program Director will be the primary institutional contact for resident/fellow assignments for their respective program.

7. In the event of a disaster affecting other SIs of graduate medical education programs, the program leadership at UAMS COM will work collaboratively with the DIO who will coordinate on behalf of the COM the ability to accept transfer residents/fellows from other institutions. This will include the process to request complement increases with the ACGME that may be required in order to accept additional residents/fellows for training. Programs currently under a proposed or actual adverse accreditation decision by the ACGME will not be eligible to participate in accepting transfer residents/fellows.

8. Programs will be responsible for establishing procedures to protect the academic and personnel files of all residents/fellows from loss or destruction by disaster.