



University of Kentucky / College of Medicine GME Policy and Procedure
Title/Description Supervision of GME Residents and Fellows
Purpose: To outline procedures for the supervision of graduate medical education (GME) residents and fellows

Policy

The University of Kentucky College of Medicine is the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Sponsoring Institution for graduate medical education (GME) programs that provide residents and fellows with experiences to enable them to acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for high quality patient care. At each program’s training site(s), faculty provide oversight of GME education and supervise residents and fellows in patient care responsibilities and other training program activities.

As outlined in UK Administrative Regulation 5:4 “GME Residents and Fellows” is a collective term that includes residents and fellows (also called subspecialty residents) who are enrolled in a Graduate Medical Education program for training and are also in the employ of the University. For certain institutional purposes, GME Residents and Fellows may also be referred to as House Staff.

Procedure

Defined Process for Supervision

At all graduate medical education training sites affiliated with the College of Medicine and serving as training sites for ACGME accredited residencies and fellowships, supervision of residents and fellows is the responsibility of each respective GME training program’s faculty overseeing house staff clinical, educational, and research activities at that site. In accordance with ACGME requirements, each supervising faculty member must have appropriate

qualifications in their field and hold appropriate appointments in accordance with affiliated training site policies and procedures.

The supervising faculty member carries direct responsibility for any patient care delivered by a resident or fellow member.

Residents and fellows are provided appropriate progressively increasing levels of responsibility as outlined in each GME program's supervision policy. Senior and intermediate level residents and fellows may perform supervisory activities over junior residents and fellows as part of these responsibilities. The level of patient care and supervisory role is influenced in part by the resident or fellow level of education, experience, and ability; by specialty and subspecialty program requirements as defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or equivalent accrediting bodies; and by results of ongoing observation and periodic formal evaluation of resident and fellow performance by each GME training program Clinical Competency Committee (CCC). To provide oversight of resident and fellow supervision and graded authority and responsibility, UK College of Medicine, affiliated training sites, and ACGME accredited programs use the following classification of supervision:

- 1) Direct Supervision – the supervising physician is physically present with the resident or fellow during key portions of the patient interaction or, when specified by the specialty ACGME Review Committee in applicable specialty program requirements, the supervising physician and/or patient is not physically present with the resident or fellow and the supervising physician is concurrently monitoring the patient care through appropriate telecommunication technology.
- 2) Indirect Supervision– the supervising physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available to the resident or fellow for guidance and is available to provide appropriate direct supervision.
- 3) Oversight – The supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures or encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered.

To provide further clarity regarding the circumstances that necessitate each level of supervision, each ACGME program further defines when Direct Supervision (the physical presence of a supervising physician) is required. Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) residents must initially be supervised directly as described in the respective GME program's supervision policy. In addition, programs define guidelines for circumstances and events in which residents and fellows must communicate with a supervising faculty member. This information is also located in the program's supervision policy. Each program policy takes into account clinical site or location specific supervision requirements as relevant.

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Site specific requirements for direct supervision unique to specific departments, services, clinical areas, or care delivery processes are further outlined in each affiliate training site's policies in addition to being described as relevant in program supervision policies.

Each program director, with the guidance of the program's faculty through the CCC, evaluates residents and fellows over the course of their training using specific criteria, including ACGME milestone data, to ensure each assumes progressive involvement and independence in patient care activities at graduated levels of responsibility and supervision commensurate with their advancing skill and knowledge base.

Communication and Oversight

Supervising faculty at each affiliated training site share responsibility with the training program to ensure compliance with applicable accreditation body work hour requirements as part of their responsibility to ensure resident/fellow well being. Further information is available in the University of Kentucky GME Policy Manual.

In collaboration with the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), program directors are responsible for the quality of their respective training programs and for continuous compliance with affiliated training site, licensing, regulatory, and accrediting body requirements relevant to resident/fellow supervision. The GMEC regularly reviews ACGME program functioning through GMEC oversight activities to ensure institutional, training site, and program compliance with ACGME supervision requirements as outlined in the GMEC Policy.