INTRODUCTION

This Policy establishes hospital-wide guidelines for extending training for House Officers (interns, residents and fellows, hereinafter “Trainees”) appointed to GME programs sponsored by the Tufts Medical Center Hospitals, Inc. (“Tufts-MC”).

Each GME program may supplement this Policy with its own written procedures. In cases where a program policy conflicts with this Policy, this Policy shall prevail.

The extension of training guidelines relate to those Trainees who might need to compensate for excused days to meet training and certification requirements.

EXTENSION OF TRAINING

Extension of a the duration of an individual’s training program may be required to meet educational, competency and/or certification requirements of the training program or specialty. Determination of the need for extension of training is made by at the level of the training program and under supervision of the Program Director.

A Program Director may require a Trainee to extend his or her training in order to complete all RRC-required clinical experiences, to repeat one or more unsatisfactory rotations, or otherwise to meet specialty board examination eligibility requirements. In these cases, the provisions of the Graduate Medical Education Policy on Evaluation, Advancement and Remediation of House Officers should be followed.
Required extension periods are applicable in those situations in which the Trainee has not met RRC Program Requirements or American Specialty Board eligibility requirements during the regular appointment years, and when all other means for meeting these requirements have been exhausted.

The trainee must be notified by the Program Director, in writing, of the intent to require an extension of training. In addition to including a rationale for the extension, the Program Director must specify the duration of the extension. The trainee shall also be informed of the appeal process for such recommendations.

The GME Office must also be informed in writing of all instances (potential and actual) that may require Extension of Training.

In the setting of a proposed extension of training, Program Directors need to consider the following:
1. ACGME requirements  
   a. Extension of training for an individual  
   b. Increase in program complement  
2. Risk management: assurance of malpractice coverage  
3. Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine  
4. ECFMG, if applicable

**STIPEND FOR EXTENSION OF TRAINING**

Compensation to the trainee in the form of salary and benefits extending beyond the original time of appointment (or beyond the duration of ACGME defined training program) are expected to be the responsibility of the training program. Requests for institutional support for extensions of training will be reviewed in the context of institutional policies by the Chief Medical Officer and the Associate Chief Medical Officer for GME. Any stipend paid will be at the rate of the incomplete year.

**RESPONSIBILITY OF:**

Graduate Medical Education

**Author:**

Members of the Graduate Medical Education Committee

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