

Policy Limiting the Number of Admissions Per Admitting Day to a Resident

Revised October 2006

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the maximum number of new patients that both a first-year resident and a supervisory resident will admit per admitting day (24-hour period) and in a 48-hour period.

B. Application

This policy applies to all of the residency program's teaching services. This includes the Sanford Health Internal Medicine Teaching Service (IMTS), the Sanford Health Cardiology Teaching Service (CTS), and the Sanford Health Critical Care Medicine Teaching Service (CCMTS). The program does not currently have any inpatient teaching services at other sites.

C. Background

1. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) states: "A first-year resident must not be assigned more than five new patients per admitting day; an additional 2 patients may be assigned if they are in-house transfers from the medical services." "A first-year resident must not be assigned more than 8 new patients in a 48-hour period." "When supervising more than one first-year resident, the supervising resident must not be responsible for the supervision or admission of more than 10 new patients and 4 transfer patients per admitting day or more than 16 new patients in a 48-hour period."
2. This is defined under Sections V-F-2-a-(1), (2), and (5) of the ACGME Program Requirements for Residency Education in Internal Medicine (editorial revisions July 1, 2004).

D. Policy

1. On the Sanford Health IMTS and CTS, a first-year resident must not be responsible for admitting more than five (5) new patients per 24-hour day. Two additional patients may be assigned if they are in-house transfers from other internal medicine services (non-teaching, critical care, or other internal medicine subspecialty services). A first-year resident must not be assigned more than eight (8) new patients in a 48-hour period, including transfer patients.
2. On the Sanford Health IMTS and CTS, the supervising (second- or third-year) resident must not be responsible for the supervision or admission of more than 10 new patients (including consults) and 4 transfer patients per admitting day or more than 16 new patients (including transfer patients) in a 48-hour period.
3. On the Sanford Health CCMTS, a first-year resident will not be responsible for admitting more than three (3) new patients per 24-hour period, including transfer patients.

4. On the Sanford Health CCMTS, a second-year or third-year resident will not be responsible for the supervision or admission of more than five (5) new patients per 24-hour period, including transfer patients.
5. Re-distribution of patients to avoid exceeding these limits will be the responsibility of the Sanford Health Medical House Officer (MHO) when on duty, the internal medicine and critical care medicine attending physicians when the MHO is off duty, the Program Director, or other Key Faculty designated by the Program Director.