



**Cleveland Clinic**  
**Florida**

**Graduate Medical Education**

**Graduate Physicians Manual**

Dear Colleague-in-Training,

Welcome to the Cleveland Clinic Florida! You are an integral part of one of the largest and best medical facilities in the country. Adjusting to life as an intern, resident or fellow has its challenges and its rewards, and an institution of the size of the Cleveland Clinic can make it seem overwhelming. We recognize the complexities you may face and have structured this Graduate Physician's manual to help answer some of your questions.

All policies and procedures concerning Graduate Medical Education are developed, approved and implemented by the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC). The majority are identical to those that apply to your attendings, the full-time medical staff. While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this manual, it is possible that changes will be made to some of the policies after its publication. Cleveland Clinic Institutional and GMEC policies will take precedence over those in this publication in matters of arbitration. To keep you current, any changes to policies and/or revisions will be communicated on the Weston GME intranet site, as they are implemented. Cleveland Clinic Institutional policies can be found in the [Policy and Procedure Manager \(PPM\)](#). Please note that these are both intranet sites, only accessible when on the Cleveland Clinic network. You will need your CCF network login and password to access this site.

Your well-being is extremely important to us and the Cleveland Clinic Florida offers many well-being resources those who need them via our [Caring for Caregivers](#). The Cleveland Clinic Florida strongly promotes team work and interprofessional education and collaboration and you will be an indispensable member and sometimes leader of many teams during your training.

We look very much forward to your extended stay with us.

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Any reference in this manual to “clinical trainee” includes residents, fellows, and clinical fellows.

Any reference to “trainee”, “caregiver”, “employee” or “house staff” includes residents, fellows, clinical fellows, and research fellows.

The Cleveland Clinic’s goal is to be the best place to receive care anywhere and be the best place to work in healthcare. Though it all, we work as a team of teams, guided by our values and Care Priorities, everywhere there is a Cleveland Clinic.



## Care Priorities Inform the Work We Do



**Patients:** We provide each patient a lifetime of high quality, seamless care enabled by technology.

**Caregivers:** We create an inclusive and supportive culture that empowers caregivers to thrive.

**Organization:** We steward our resources, enabling us to grow responsibly and serve as many patients as possible.

**Community:** We serve our communities by tailoring care to meet their unique needs and ensure better health.

## Culture Defines Who We Are



Our Cleveland Clinic Values define who we are. There're essential to our culture. By living our Values every day, in every interaction, we ensure the best possible care and service for all.

**Quality & Safety:** We ensure the highest standards and excellent outcomes through effective interactions, decision-making, and actions.

**Empathy:** We imagine what another person is going through, work to alleviate suffering, and create joy whenever possible.

**Teamwork:** We work together to ensure the best possible care, safety, and well-being of our patients and fellow caregivers.

**Integrity:** We adhere to high moral principles and professional standards by a commitment to honesty, confidentiality, trust, respect, and transparency.

**Inclusion:** We intentionally create an environment of compassionate belonging where all are valued and respected.

**Innovation:** We drive small and large changes to transform healthcare everywhere.

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## Institutional Statements & Responsibilities

### Institutional Commitment to Graduate Medical Education

Graduate Medical Education has been an integral component of the Cleveland Clinic's mission since its inception in 1921 as of 1989 in Cleveland Clinic Florida. Cleveland Clinic Florida recognizes the importance and value of Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs, throughout our health system, which provide the skills physicians need to administer to their patients. Our focus is and always has been to train physicians to deliver the highest quality medical care, to teach future generations of health care professionals and to pursue research into the causes and treatments of disease.

The commitment by Cleveland Clinic Florida to GME is exhibited by its leadership, organizational structure and resources. These assets enable the institution to achieve or exceed substantial compliance with national accreditation requirements and institutional standards. This includes providing an environment focused on ethics, attention to diversity in all programs, professionalism and academia. Competency-based curricular requirements as well as applicable requirements for scholarly activity are met under the careful guidance and graded supervision of the Clinic's teaching faculty. Cleveland Clinic Florida is also committed to ensuring compliance with work hour requirements as set forth by the ACGME for the purpose of improved resident well-being and patient safety.

Cleveland Clinic Florida holds all GME programs to high academic and professional standards through ongoing formal internal quality assessment of educational programs, resident performance and the use of outcomes-based assessment for program improvement. Cleveland Clinic Florida is committed to ensuring safe and compassionate care of patients, the success of resident physicians in their training and maintaining an appropriate balance between education and service needs.

Cleveland Clinic Florida recognizes the necessity for adequate resources and optimal conditions to enable GME programs to sustain academic excellence; these include adequate funding, support personnel, equipment, facilities and dedicated faculty teaching time. Cleveland Clinic Florida also acknowledges the importance of dedicated faculty teaching time as essential to the success of every program under our institutional sponsorship, and the need for periodic review of the adequacy of these resources.

## Equal Opportunity Employment Statement

Cleveland Clinic is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of Cleveland Clinic to prohibit discrimination and harassment of all kinds, afford equal employment opportunities to employees and applicants, and to administer all terms and conditions of employment including, but not limited to recruitment, employment, promotion, compensation and salary administration, benefits, transfers, training and education, working conditions and application of policies without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, age, nationality, ethnicity, ancestry, disability, military status, genetic information, protected veteran status or any other status protected by applicable federal, state or local law.

The policies and principles of equal employment opportunity also apply to the selection and treatment of and by independent contractors, personnel working on Cleveland Clinic premises who are employed by temporary agencies and any other persons or firms doing business for or with Cleveland Clinic. Cleveland Clinic also promotes an inclusive organizational culture through diversity education, consultation, and programs that leverage differences to enhance innovation, quality of care, teamwork, and economic impact. Further, it is our policy to encourage all vendors, contractors, and others doing business with Cleveland Clinic to adhere to these same principles.

View Full Policy on  
[Equal Employment Opportunity Policy](#)

## Patients' Rights and Responsibilities

All members of Cleveland Clinic's professional staff need to be aware of the Statement of Patients' Rights and Responsibilities that is endorsed by Cleveland Clinic and shared with patients. This statement may be found in the [Patient Rights-Responsibilities Brochure](#).

## Corporate Social Responsibility Policy

Cleveland Clinic is a not-for-profit, multispecialty academic medical center providing state-of-the-art medical care, education, research and technology. As a major healthcare institution, Cleveland Clinic has a leadership role in the communities it serves. Executive policy and procedural decisions are attuned to the current civic, social, economic and political environment. It is the policy of the institution to aid those community efforts that bear upon its mission.

This social commitment takes the form of monetary and non-monetary resources allocated in accordance with existing policy. The following guidelines describe the scope of Cleveland Clinic's corporate social responsibility, permitting the clinic to: assist the public and private sectors in initiatives that improve the health and vitality of its communities; serve as a resource and catalyst for educational institutions to promote workforce development and training in medicine, research and allied health professions; foster positive relations with community leaders to identify community needs, and to assess programs and projects of mutual concern; and provide appropriate participation in selected community functions or activities.

These guidelines are reviewed periodically and modified according to changing conditions

within the community and within Cleveland Clinic. The Executive Management Team and the Chair of the Division of Community Relations and Diversity assist the Chair of the Board of Governors/Medical Executive Committee in making the decisions to request the allocation of resources under this policy.

### **Institutional Committees**

In keeping with the mission to offer a complete and comprehensive graduate medical education experience and in accordance with the ACGME Institutional Requirements, Cleveland Clinic recognizes the need for clinical trainees to be involved in multiple levels of committees

The GME office will assure trainees are included on institutional committee's prior to the start of each academic year. This includes contacting the Chairman of each of these councils and committees to see if the current clinical trainee intends to remain on the committee for the following academic year. If a replacement is needed, the Chairman of the committee or council may either identify another clinical trainee to participate or, they may ask for the assistance in identifying a clinical trainee that would be interested in participating.

Clinical Trainees who are members of Institutional Committees are required to attend scheduled meetings. If the Clinical Trainee who is a designated member of a Committee is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, they should designate an alternate in their absence. In addition to those committees and councils identified, the Institutes are required to involve clinical trainees in all committees, councils and task forces that are appropriate. At minimum, clinical trainees should be involved in any institutional committees dealing with educational programs, quality assurance and other graduate medical education affairs. Clinical Trainees are also required to attend all meetings and conferences considered mandatory by the Institution or their department.

In clinical departments, it is anticipated that there will be clinical trainee membership on at least the following committees: Education Committee, Quality and Patient Safety Committee, Resource Utilization (when in existence) or other appropriate departmental committees.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of Clinical Trainees**

A clinical trainee shall perform in a competent manner as determined by the Program Director and the supervisory staff in all areas of the general competencies as defined by the ACGME and, all other related tasks and duties assigned to him or her by the Program Director, including but not limited to:

#### **Educational Responsibilities:**

- Execute all duties assigned under the on-call schedule as may be established and amended by the Program Director and all duties as may be assigned to be performed at such other teaching hospitals and medical facilities as may be designated by the Program Director.
- Participate in safe, effective and compassionate patient care under supervision, commensurate with the clinical trainees level of advancement and responsibility at sites specifically approved by the Program and under circumstances and at locations covered

- by the Hospital's Professional Liability Insurance maintained for the clinical trainee.
- Participate fully and perform satisfactorily in the educational and scholarly activities of the Program, including the performance of scholarly and research activities as assigned by the Program Director and/or as necessary for the completion of applicable graduation requirements.
- Assume responsibility for participation in the teaching of more junior trainees and medical students.
- Attend all educational conferences as required and participate in educational programs, activities and required courses. Participate in applicable departmental and institutional committees, especially those relating to patient care review activities.

#### Responsibilities to the Institution:

- Subsequent to the first day of training, submit to a health screening which include tests for drug & tobacco use. Supplementary tests may be performed at any point during training as deemed necessary to the operation of Cleveland Clinic; this may include tests for drug use and alcohol abuse. In addition, the clinical trainee agrees to meet Cleveland Clinic standards for immunizations in the same manner as all Cleveland Clinic personnel.
- Apply for in a timely manner, obtain and provide Cleveland Clinic with evidence that he or she has obtained certifications, licenses, visas, test results, work permits and registrations required by state, federal or local laws and regulations to enroll and remain in graduate medical education training in the State of Ohio.
- Abide by and adhere to hospital standards including the legible and timely completion of patient medical records, charts, reports, statistical operative and procedure logs, faculty and program evaluations and any other paperwork required by the Program.
- Comply with the policies and procedures of Cleveland Clinic pertaining to all employees and those specific to clinical trainees which are contained in the Graduate Physicians Manual.
- Comply with institution and program specific requirements regarding record keeping, logging and/or reporting work hours and work hour violations.
- Comply with institution and program specific requirements regarding standards for supervision.
- Comply with institution and program specific requirements regarding timely completion of training courses; including but not limited to courses in MyLearning.
- Comply with institution and program specific requirements regarding evaluation of attending physicians, rotations and the training program.
- Apply such cost effective measures as directed or instructed by Cleveland Clinic in the provision of patient care while acting in the best interests of patients at all times.
- Upon departure from the training program, the clinical trainee must return all Cleveland Clinic property including but not limited to, books, equipment, patient data, pager, iPhone and complete all necessary records and settle all professional and financial obligations.

#### Administrative Responsibilities:

- Fully cooperate with the Program and Cleveland Clinic in coordinating and completing RC and ACGME/AOA/ADA/CPME accreditation submissions and activities. This includes participation in any review of a clinical trainee's own training program as well as participation on Review Teams to assess other training programs.
- Abide by and adhere to Cleveland Clinic professional standards and all applicable state, federal and local laws, as well as the standards required to maintain accreditation by the Joint Commission, ACGME/AOA/ADA/CPME and any other relevant accrediting, certifying or licensing organizations.
- Comply with all ACGME/AOA requirements including but not limited to those regarding work hours and moonlighting. Please refer to specific ACGME institutional requirements and RC program requirements at [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org).
- Comply with Cleveland Clinic reporting requirements such as completion of personal incident reports, patient incident reporting, etc.
- Attend & participate in department, institute and/or institutional meetings as required.

#### Personal Responsibilities:

- Develop and follow a personal program of self-study and professional growth under guidance of the Program's teaching faculty.
- Refrain from conduct that would impact adversely on the medical profession or the mission of the Cleveland Clinic or have the appearance of impropriety or which might otherwise damage the Cleveland Clinic's reputation or interfere with the Cleveland Clinic's business or the proper performance of the clinical trainee's duties.
- Develop an understanding of ethical, socioeconomic and medical/legal issues that affect the practice of medicine and graduate medical education training.

Residents/fellows have multiple roles, including supervisor, teacher, role model and assessor. Residents/fellows must orient students to a new service. Students depend on the resident/fellow to give them a tour of the facility, to tell them where to be and when and what to do when they get there. The resident/fellow needs to spend time with the student specifying his or her role in various areas listed below. Many of these areas will be specified as part of the rotation description/objectives: blood draws, precautionary measures such as infection control, numbers of patients to be seen per day, write ups to be handed in per week, conferences to attend, frequency of call and where the on call quarters are for that service, time of rounding, how to access computers for patient information, policy on placing orders with counter signature, expected times for arrival and departure, policy for absenteeism and layout of facilities.

**Resident/Fellow as Role Model:** Residents/fellows are role models for students. Role modeling behavior includes ethical behavior and professionalism, medical reasoning, clinical decision making and compassionate, humanistic approaches to patient care. Students should be treated with respect. Destructive, belittling comments do not enhance learning and are inappropriate.

#### Teaching Role of Residents/Fellows:

- Specify learning objectives. The clinical trainees should be familiar with rotation objectives as noted above. The students should be informed about the objectives for their rotation on their first day.
- Specify organization. The clinical trainee should describe the rotation expectations for example, how much time students should spend on different activities such as rounding and patient care responsibilities.
- Specify teaching methods. Students should have time set aside each week to meet with the attending and/or senior resident. This provides an opportunity for the student to ask questions, receive feedback and to learn for example, medical facts, ethical issues, the diagnostic process, treatment options, management plans, doctor-patient communication skills, cost-containment, preventive medicine and interdisciplinary care. An essential component of good teaching is providing helpful feedback to improve performance.
- Residents/fellows should provide constructive feedback to students on an ongoing basis throughout their rotation. It should be clearly defined and should include both constructive criticisms (targeted areas for improvement) and positive feedback (areas of strength). Residents/fellows are expected to directly observe and assess the student's performance in areas such as patient care, histories and physicals, etc. Direct observation forms the foundation of feedback.
- Evaluative Role. Students who have ongoing difficulties or serious events occur during the rotation need to be identified with the expectations for the student written down and a plan agreed upon by all parties on how these problems can be solved. In general the attending and/or Clerkship Director should be included in this process.
- Other methods of evaluation, electronic or paper, may be used by other medical schools. It is the responsibility of the medical student to provide information regarding the evaluation method to the Clerkship Director/Faculty at the start of the rotation.

## Conditions of Employment & Requirements

### Eligibility, Selection, and Appointment

Recruitment: Recruitment efforts shall be directed toward and appointments offered only to those candidates who meet the eligibility requirements for appointment to residency or fellowship training.

Applicants with one of the following qualifications are eligible to be considered for training at Cleveland Clinic:

- Graduates of medical schools in the United States and Canada accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)
- Graduates of Osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
- Graduates of medical schools outside the United States or Canada who meet one of the following:
  - Received a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)

- Holds a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction in his/her current ACGME specialty-/subspecialty program
- Graduates of medical schools outside the United States who have completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME-accredited school
- Fellows who meet the prerequisite training and documentation requirements to be considered for training in a non-accredited fellowship
- Fellows must have completed ACGME prerequisite training to be considered for training in an accredited fellowship
  - If a trainee who holds a valid ECFMG certificate does not meet the requirements listed above, he or she may be considered an “exceptional candidate” based on specific criteria outlined in the subspecialty requirements and only if the individual RC allows exceptions to the general eligibility requirements. Please refer to the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC) Eligibility Procedure located on [Connect Today](#) for details.

Selection: Programs must select from eligible applicants on the basis of residency program related criteria such as: preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, written and verbal communication skills as well as motivation and integrity. Decisions concerning employment, transfers and promotions are made upon the basis of the best qualified candidate. Cleveland Clinic is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer and seeks to ensure that employment decisions are based only on valid job requirements and that all caregivers and applicants are provided with equal opportunity in all employment practices including: recruitment, selection, promotion, compensation and salary administration, benefits, transfers, training and education, working conditions and application of policies without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, marital status, age, nationality, ethnicity, ancestry, disability, military status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any other factor or characteristic protected by law. Information provided on this application may be shared with any Cleveland Clinic facility.

Residency programs recruiting first year residents are required to participate in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and must adhere to the “all in” requirement. Other programs are encouraged to participate in an organized matching program where such is available. Before accepting a clinical trainee who is transferring from another institution into the same program, the Program Director must obtain written or electronic verification of the previous educational experience and a summative competency-based performance evaluation of the transferring resident. These documents must be received by the Program Director prior to accepting the resident into the program.

Appointment: Initial appointments and any subsequent appointment are contingent upon meeting the requirements. Requirements are listed on the GME website, distributed to candidates when they interview and included as an addendum with the formal appointment letter. At the recommendation of the Program Director, the formal appointment letter is generated on behalf of the Director of GME, who is also the Designated Institutional Official (DIO). The GME Department screens the application materials to assure each candidate meets

the requisite academic and employment eligibility requirements to enter the respective training program. Neither Cleveland Clinic nor any of its GME programs require residents or fellows to sign a non-competition guarantee or restrictive covenant. Appointment letters for all ACGME accredited programs sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic will be issued by the DIO.

**Transfer of Clinical Trainees:** Clinical trainees are encouraged to discuss their plans to seek other training opportunities with their Program Director or advisor. Clinical trainees should provide adequate notice when they decide to leave their training program in order to provide a smooth transition of patient care responsibilities.

**Transfer to Cleveland Clinic:** Prior to discussion with a potential candidate (committed to another training program) the Cleveland Clinic Program Director should obtain a release from the candidate's current Program Director. Before a program accepts a clinical trainee who is transferring from another program, the Program Director must obtain written or electronic verification of previous educational experiences and a summative competency based performance evaluation and the last Milestone evaluation of the transferring clinical trainee. Pursuant to the ACGME requirements on transfers, the current Program Director must provide timely verification of residency education and summative performance evaluations for clinical trainees who request to leave the program prior to completion.

**Prior to Start of Training:** If a clinical trainee has matched to a program (through the NRMP) and decides (before starting) he or she does not want to train in that program and/or at that institution, the clinical trainee must request a waiver from the NRMP in order to break the contract. A Program Director cannot consider a candidate who has matched to another program unless a waiver is issued to the clinical trainee in question. If a Program Director wishes to break the NRMP contract with a clinical trainee (i.e. student didn't meet criteria to complete medical school, international graduate not able to obtain visa), the Program Director must request a waiver from the NRMP in order to fill that position. No positions may be offered or accepted prior to the NRMP granting a waiver.

### **Requirements to Begin Training**

Prior to training/working at Cleveland Clinic, clinical trainees/research fellows will be required to complete an electronic onboarding packet as well as attend a scheduled orientation session with GME. The documents will be kept as part of his or her permanent record. Salary and/or benefits will not begin until the clinical trainee/research fellow has successfully completed all conditions of employment.

1. Complete and receive medical clearance from a pre-employment health screening performed by Cleveland Clinic Occupational Health before the orientation date.

Positive results for any illicit drugs or non-prescribed controlled substances will constitute ineligibility for employment.

The cotinine test will detect the presence of nicotine in all forms of tobacco. Appointments that have been offered to prospective residents and fellows who test positive, will be rescinded. Those individuals testing positive, who then test negative after 90 days, may be reconsidered for appointment at the discretion of the Program Director should the position remain vacant.

2. Complete a criminal background check as required by Cleveland Clinic Department of Protective Services.
3. Complete all tasks in Workday: the Cleveland Clinic Human Resource Management System, including: an Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9) as required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Original documents must be presented at GME Orientation for verification.
4. Complete all required tasks, forms and uploads in MedHub: the institutional Residency Management System.
5. Provide documentation of a current Florida permanent medical license or training license.

### Licensure

The State of Florida requires clinical trainees to have either a Permanent Florida Medical License or a Training License. Applying and renewing of licensure is the clinical trainee's responsibility. Clinical trainees will be required to maintain licensure throughout their training program. Failure to maintain licensure will result in the inability to work and may result in termination of employment.

The Florida Medical Board will contact the clinical trainee directly via email. The clinical trainee must provide GME a copy before they can start their training.

### USMLE Step 3

According to the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), individuals wishing to take USMLE Step 3 to be used for licensure by the State of Florida, must have completed 9 months of ACGME accredited post-graduate training (training requirements vary by state; refer to the FSMB website for details). This requirement is the same for U.S., Canadian and International medical school graduates. The Graduate Medical Education Department does not have applications for Step 3. Please contact the FSMB at 817-868-4000 for an application. Clinical trainees may also obtain an application by submitting an email request to the FSMB at [usmle@fsmb.org](mailto:usmle@fsmb.org). Clinical trainee's must include their full name, mailing address, USMLE ID number (if known) and the state for which they will be taking Step 3.

### COMLEX Level 3

Clinical trainees are required to pass COMLEX Level 3 of the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners (NBOME) in order to continue residency and matriculate into their 3rd year of residency training (AOA Guidelines).

All 1<sup>st</sup> year residents are encouraged to take the COMLEX Level 3 no later than the end of February of their first resident training year. All eligible residents will be required to take COMLEX Level 3 before March of their first resident training year. If a resident is unable to take the exam prior to March, he or she must write a letter to the Program Director and the Director of Graduate Medical Education to request approval for the delay.

If a resident fails COMLEX Level 3 on his or her initial attempt, he or she must immediately notify the GME department within two business days of the NBOME score release date. Failure to comply will result in corrective action. The resident may continue with the rotation that they are scheduled with, but is required to meet with the Program Director along with the Director of Medical Education and/or designee to set up an academic plan including a board preparation program at the residents' expense. The resident cannot register for another exam until the board preparation program is approved. The resident is required to retake the exam by the end of June of his or her first resident training year. He or she may be allowed to participate in clinical rotations while preparing for retaking the boards.

If the resident fails the exam for the second time, he or she must immediately notify the GME department within two business days of the NBOME score release date. Failure to comply will result in corrective action up to and including termination. The resident is required to meet with the Program Director and the Director of Medical Education and/or designee to set up a new remediation/board preparation proposal, which may include repeating selected core rotations or ceasing rotations in order to study. If rotations are impacted and the resident is removed from rotations, paid time off (PTO) must be utilized. If there is no available PTO, the resident will be placed on unpaid time off (UPTO) and the time accrued while on UPTO will be added to the end of the residency.

Failure of COMLEX Level 3 for the third time is grounds for dismissal and ultimately could lead to problems with licensure in the state of Ohio.

Graduate Medical Education must be notified within 2 business days about each attempt and receive official notification of results, regardless of outcome, pass or fail. It is the resident's responsibility to keep GME apprised of all attempts and results. Failure to comply with this request will result in corrective action up to and including termination. If the Graduate Medical Education Office has not received notification that a resident has passed COMLEX Level 3 in time to matriculate into their 3rd year, a resident contract will not be granted. Failure to comply with any portions of this GME requirement may result in termination.

## National Provider Identifier (NPI)

All health care providers that file electronic claims are required by HIPAA law to obtain the National Provider Identifier (NPI). The NPI is a number every physician will need throughout their career. The purpose of the NPI is to utilize one identifying number per health care provider for all health plans. As a clinical trainee at Cleveland Clinic who has the ability to write prescriptions, clinical trainees are required to have a National Provider Identifier number. The NPI for each health care provider is assigned by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). Clinical trainees can apply on-line for this NPI number at any point in time; there is no charge and it is a number they will use for their entire career.

The NPI application process is the means by which health care provider organizations and individuals become uniquely identified in a national database known as the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). Go to [NPPES](#) and apply as an individual. The website will walk a person through the online process. Clinical trainees may also complete a paper application and mail it directly to NPPES. NPI is a Cleveland Clinic requirement; please upload a copy of the NPI confirmation letter and number into the MedHub record. A Social Security Number is required to apply for the NPI; therefore, a clinical trainee can only apply for an NPI after they receive a social security number and then follow the above process.

## Medicaid and Medicare Enrollment Requirements

To order, refer and prescribe to Medicaid and Medicare patients, it is essential to enroll in both systems. Prescriptions will only be accepted after enrollment has been approved. To enroll a clinical trainee will need a Social Security Number, National Provider Identifier (NPI Number) and a Permanent License or Training Certificate Number.

## Evaluations

Timely feedback is important to clinical trainees to help them recognize areas of their performance that require improvement and areas in which performance meets or exceeds expectations. Verbal feedback in real time is the most valuable for a clinical trainee to reflect on their behaviors, actions and determine what modifications need to be made. In addition, formal assessments need to be completed on clinical trainees at the completion of each rotation by faculty that they worked with. These assessments will be available (individually and in aggregate) for the clinical trainee's review in MedHub. Faculty should be available for discussion of the clinical trainee's performance and assessment.

Clinical trainees are also expected to provide feedback to others such as peers, faculty and the program. Feedback should be constructive in nature and help in further development of the person or program being evaluated.

## Formative Assessment of Clinical Trainees (Feedback)

Teaching faculty are required to provide an assessment of the performance of clinical trainees they supervise at the end of each rotation, or at least every three months for rotations longer than three months. These assessments are completed in MedHub, Cleveland Clinic's institutional residency management system.

If required by the ACGME, Milestone-based assessments must be utilized. Assessments in MedHub can be linked to both the Milestones and the six ACGME competency areas (Patient Care, Systems-Based Practice, Interpersonal & Communication Skills, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, Medical Knowledge, and Professionalism). These assessments frequently incorporate numerical rating scales with behavioral anchors to assess progress. Teaching faculty are strongly encouraged to include specific, narrative feedback on the assessment form, as these comments can be used formatively by clinical trainees and provide important data for the Clinical Competency Committee's (CCC) semi-annual review. Programs with Osteopathic Recognition will also incorporate the Osteopathic Principles into their assessments.

***Formative Assessment:*** Frequent formative assessment (assessment designed to help clinical trainees improve their performance), is a critical feature of all competency based educational programs. While formative assessment is often verbal (e.g., feedback to clinical trainees after an observation), written formative assessment should be offered by faculty and can be collected independently to show improvement of performance over time. Formative assessment drives learning and helps our clinical trainees reach both program and individual goals. We encourage programs to increase the use of formative assessment.

The number of assessments that each faculty member is required to complete varies with their individual service assignment and/or number of clinical trainees in a program. MedHub will assign performance assessments to faculty by matching their service dates to the program's rotation schedule, or as queued by the Program Coordinator. MedHub notifies faculty via e-mail that they have assessments to complete. Upon logging into MedHub, faculty can view a list of their assigned assessments; MedHub will continue to send weekly reminders until assigned assessments have been completed. Those faculty who had limited or no teaching contact with the clinical trainee may remove the evaluation from their listing by denoting insufficient contact to evaluate. Nonetheless, faculty are encouraged to provide feedback based on their observations of single encounters.

### **Additional Evidence Used for Assessment Purposes**

In addition to the formative assessments completed by faculty, programs are encouraged to use peer-to-peer, 360-degree, and self-assessments which contain an individual learning plan designed by the resident. 360-degree assessments are extremely helpful to the CCC (Clinical Competence Committee), due to the variety of stakeholders who have an opportunity to participate. The forms for these assessments will be developed, deployed and determined by individual programs. Additionally, patients may be asked to anonymously assess clinical trainees who participated in their care at Cleveland Clinic in the outpatient setting. The Press Ganey survey is sent to patients treated by a clinical trainee in continuity clinics scheduled under their name, as well as being an add-on to the faculty survey for those working with faculty in their clinic.

**Summative Assessment:** Summative assessments are used to evaluate resident/fellow learning, skill acquisition, and milestone achievement at the conclusion of each six months of training. It is a reflection of progress over a period of time; what has been achieved, and what areas may be an opportunity for growth.

Many different components make up the summative assessments, not only is it a summary of the formative assessments received during that time period, but an incorporation of feedback from other sources, such as procedural accomplishments during the period, peer feedback, patient feedback, test scores and scholarly accomplishments.

Faculty also receive summative assessments of their teaching skills using anonymous resident fellow feedback. Faculty can use this feedback to further hone their teaching skills, thus creating a robust learning community which encourages continual growth.

## Summative Assessments

All assessment data should be considered by the program for the overall assessment of a clinical trainee's performance.

Documentation must be completed by the Program Director and shared with the clinical trainee using the Summative Evaluation of Resident/Fellow Performance assessment. This documentation should indicate if the clinical trainee is achieving level appropriate specialty-specific competency Milestones and thereby is ready to progress to the next level of training or graduate from the program. Summative assessments are required for a clinical trainee's permanent education file at least twice per year.

For ACGME accredited programs, CCC's are tasked with synthesizing assessments data in order to advise Program Directors regarding clinical trainees' progress on competency based Milestones. Program Directors are required to review the CCC's recommendations, make appropriate determinations regarding the clinical trainee's current level of competency and provide their objective assessments of progress to the ACGME at 6-month intervals.

The Program Director must also complete the Cleveland Clinic Verification of Residency/ Fellowship Training assessment for each clinical trainee at the completion of the program. This final assessment must be accessible for review by the clinical trainee and will document his/her performance during the final period of training and verify that the graduating resident demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to enter autonomous practice. At the program's discretion, a summative "Dean's Letter" may also be provided to the clinical trainee.

## Assessment of Teaching Faculty

Clinical trainees are required to complete anonymous assessments of their supervising teaching faculty at the end of each rotation; these assessments are administered via MedHub. MedHub will assign performance assessments to clinical trainees by matching their service dates to the programs faculty rotation schedule, or as queued by the Program Coordinator.

At the end of each rotation, MedHub notifies clinical trainees via e-mail that they have assessments to complete. Upon logging into MedHub, clinical trainees can view a list of their

assigned assessments; MedHub will send weekly reminders until all assigned assessments have

been completed. Clinical trainees are not be able to view their assessments until the assessments of faculty are submitted. Included in each teaching assessments are items which assess a range of teaching domains, including: the ability of a faculty member to establish a safe learning environment, provide specific, actionable feedback, and to teach effectively in a variety of settings. Clinical trainees are encouraged to provide narrative feedback highlighting areas of strength and targeted areas for improvement to aid in faculty development. Each program is required to use the standard Evaluation of Faculty Teaching (2.0) form provided by the GME Office.

In order to assure timely feedback to teaching faculty, the anonymous staff teaching assessments completed by clinical trainees will be available in an aggregate form once at least five (5) assessments are completed on a specific teaching faculty. This will not jeopardize the confidentiality of the online system in MedHub as faculty will be unable to review individual assessments completed on them. Access to the aggregate staff teaching assessments is intended to afford each staff physician the opportunity to make improvements to their methodology for teaching clinical trainees.

### **Evaluation of Training Program**

Clinical trainees and faculty are required to complete an annual survey (the Resident/Fellow Annual Evaluation of a Clinical Training Program and the Faculty Annual Evaluation of a Clinical Training Program) in MedHub that anonymously evaluates the strengths and targeted areas for improvement of the training program. These assessments were designed with the assistance of the House Staff Association. Trainees and Faculty members have an opportunity to answer questions about a number of factors that contribute to the overall effectiveness of their respective programs.

The confidentiality of program assessment data is strictly ensured. The results from each program are summarized by evaluator group and only provided to the Program Director and the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC) if 5 or more assessments were completed. Any program with less than 5 assessments submitted per year in each data set will not receive specific data for that academic year; instead, they will receive an aggregate report including as many years as necessary to reach the target of 5); under no circumstances will the results of an individual assessments be linked to an individual clinical trainee or faculty member.

Information gathered from program assessments are helpful in measuring the effectiveness of the training program and are considered in future planning. The results are also used during the ACGME required Annual Program Evaluation (APE) process, which is monitored by the GMEC Program Improvement Plan Subcommittee. Each clinical training program must undergo an APE yearly. At this meeting clinical trainees and faculty discuss the quality of the training program, a variety of assessments, graduate performance on board examinations, as well as faculty development opportunities. Upon completion of the APE the program prepares a written plan of action to document initiatives to improve performance. The action plan ought to be reviewed and approved by the teaching faculty and documented in meeting minutes, which also includes attendance by program leaders, faculty and clinical trainee representatives. During the APE meeting the following year, discussion will focus on how successful the program was in executing the action plan of the prior year.

## Performance

### GME Remediation and Corrective Action Policy

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to describe the Graduate Medical Education (GME) guidelines to address any remediation and corrective actions (probation, non-promotion, non-reappointment, or dismissal). The Program Director (PD) and trainee should attempt to resolve any trainee's performance and/or behavior professionalism problems using verbal counseling and discussions prior to invoking the procedure set forth below. The procedure below is based on the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Requirements, however, all trainees, whether in an ACGME-accredited program or not, are held to the same standards.

**Policy Implementation:** This policy applies to all trainees who are appointed to a GME program. Remediation is commonly accomplished in a progressive fashion and the purpose of remediation is for the trainee to overcome any difficulties or shortcomings in his/her attaining expected competencies and professional conduct. The steps in the remediation process include in increasing order of complexity and seriousness, verbal counseling, written counseling, and probation, which if not successful, can lead to non-promotion to the next level of training or to termination. Steps may be skipped depending on the severity and seriousness of the trainee's deficiencies or unacceptable actions and behaviors.

#### Verbal Counseling

When a trainee's academic and/or professional performance is below expectations of a training program, the PD engages in verbal counseling with the trainee. Verbal counseling about a specific area(s) of deficiency(ies) in competence may occur at any time, and as many times as necessary during a trainee's educational program. Notes regarding the counseling should be kept in the trainee's program/department file (not GME office) for future consultation/documentation, if needed.

#### Written Counseling

If under-performance continues despite verbal counseling and without the desired improvement, or if other action/behavior of resident/fellow necessitates intervention, the PD then provides the trainee with formal written counseling. Written counseling involves the delivery of a written memo (*GME Counseling & Remediation Form*) to the trainee that specifies the reasons for the written counseling and specific remediation steps that are aimed to improve the trainee's performance, as well as expectations and timeline thereof. The written counseling form is kept in the program/department's file, not the trainee's formal GME file. The written counseling memo must be signed by the PD and trainee. While the GME Department encourages the trainee to address and resolve issues related to verbal and written counseling with their PD, officials in the GME Department are available to answer any questions and assist the trainee in resolving such issues.

**Corrective Action: Probation** – *This should only be delivered to the trainee after consultation and review by the GME office.*

In the event that at the end of the timeline specified in the written counseling, the trainee's performance has not improved to the extent deemed acceptable by the program, or if the offense committed by the trainee is egregious enough in nature to necessitate skipping verbal and written counseling, the trainee may be placed on probation. The program invokes probation status to the trainee by written notification and using the *GME Counseling & Remediation Form*. This formal written notification advises the trainee that his/her performance is not satisfactory and includes a clear statement that the trainee is on probation. This notice to the trainee shall include a detailed description of the unsatisfactory performance, the expectations for performance improvement and time parameters in which performance is to improve and may include resources to facilitate improvement. The PD and trainee shall sign for the delivery and receipt of the notice. As a result of probation, and depending on the circumstances, some trainee clinical duties and other activities may be restricted or otherwise modified by the PD. Likewise, research fellow's duties and activities may be restricted or modified by the PD. Probation is considered a disciplinary corrective action and is reportable to credentialing agencies and state medical boards. This action is also considered adverse and as such is appealable by the trainee. In the event the probation occurs toward the end of the academic year, the trainee's current contract may be extended until the end of the probation period to allow time to meet competencies required for progression to the next level of training.

Probation status is issued for a predetermined period of time (e.g., three months), as determined by the PD and on the recommendation of the Clinical Competence Committee (CCC). The PD also has the discretion to extend the duration of probation status. A trainee who has been placed on probation shall have his/her progress toward performance improvement reviewed by the PD or designee on a regular basis. At the end of the probationary period, the PD meets again with the trainee. Depending on the trainee's performance, he/she may be: (1) removed from probation, (2) given an additional period of probation, or (3) be subject to immediate termination or non-promotion upon the completion of the current contract. If probation is extended, an extension of training at the current post graduate level may be required to assure the trainee meets competencies required for the next level of training. After the meeting, the PD shall provide the trainee with written confirmation that: 1. the probation has been lifted and that all requirements of the probation have been satisfied and no further corrective action is required; 2. the period over which probation will be continued and expectations for remediation; or 3. date of termination.

A copy of the signed probation notice will be forwarded to the Director of GME. The Director of GME or designee will meet with the trainee to discuss the significance of the probation and the trainee right to appeal the probation. The trainee shall inform the Director of GME of the decision to accept or appeal the probation within 10 calendar days of the meeting. If the trainee accepts the probation, it will be recorded in his/her permanent GME academic record. If the trainee chooses to appeal the corrective action, it will not be documented until an Appeal Task Force decision has been rendered. If no request for an appeal is received within the 10 calendar days from the meeting, the corrective action becomes final and no appeal will be permitted.

The trainee shall have the right to appeal the probation in the manner set forth in the GME Appeals Policy.

As a formal disciplinary corrective action, probation can be reported to state medical boards and/or credentialing agencies.

#### Corrective Action: Dismissal from Training

Dismissal may occur in the event the trainee does not successfully remediate after a probation. Dismissal may also occur “for cause” for:

- (1) apparent serious violations of ethical, legal or medical practice standards of conduct
- (2) significant patient safety concerns; or
- (3) if found responsible after investigation for adverse incidents/issues

While dismissal may be appealed by the trainee, the appeals process does not apply in the case of certain egregious events such as: falsification of records, material omission of information on application or any official paperwork, violation of Substance Abuse Policy, conviction of a felony, or loss of medical license leading to inability to practice clinical medicine.

In the event a trainee is dismissed from a program, and is eligible for an appeal, he/she will be placed on paid administrative leave for 10 calendar days, or until they provide a decision to the Director of GME (if less than 10 days). If the trainee decides not to appeal, the dismissal will stand and the trainee will be terminated on that date. If the trainee appeals, paid administrative leave (salary and benefits) will continue until decision is rendered by the appeals committee.

### **GME Appeal Process Policy**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to describe the Graduate Medical Education (GME) appeal process for trainees who are formally notified in writing of a corrective action (e.g. that they are placed on probation, non-promotion, non-reappointment, or termination/dismissal). The procedure below is based on the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Requirements, however, all trainees, whether in an ACGME accredited program or not, are held to the same standards and subject to the same rules and process.

**Policy Implementation:** In the event a trainee has received a corrective action by their PD, the PD must send a copy of the completed *GME Counseling & Remediation Form* to the Director of GME. The Director of GME, or designee, will meet with the trainee to discuss the significance of the corrective action and their right to appeal the corrective action. The trainee shall inform the Director of GME of their decision to accept or appeal the corrective action within 10 calendar days of the meeting. If the trainee accepts the corrective action, it will be recorded in their permanent GME academic record. If the trainee chooses to appeal the corrective action, it will not be documented until an Appeal Task Force (ATF) decision has been rendered. If no request for an appeal is received within the 10 calendar days from the meeting, the corrective action becomes effective and final and no appeal will be permitted.

If a trainee chooses to appeal the corrective action, the appeals process will be initiated. If the appellant engages legal counsel to assist him/her with the preparation of the appeal, such legal

counsel may not represent or accompany the appellant or otherwise appear before the ATF at any time. The ATF may seek legal advice from the Cleveland Clinic Office of General Counsel as desired, but the Cleveland Clinic's attorneys should not serve in a prosecutorial role before the ATF.

### Structure of the Appeals Process

1. Formation of the ATF: The Chairman of the GMEC shall guide final composition of the ATF and will not be eligible to participate. The ATF is formed as an ad hoc subcommittee of the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC) to investigate each appeal as it occurs. The ATF shall consist of:
  - a. Five voting members who have no direct conflict of interest by way of being part of the teaching faculty in the appellants training program, department, or institute, personal involvement with the appellant or a member of the involved faculty or any other situation which might cause the member to be prejudiced and have a preexisting opinion.
    - i. One member from the GMEC to serve as chairperson. This person will set a date for the meeting a maximum of 30 calendar days after the Chairman of the GMEC received written notice of the appellant's request of an appeal.
    - ii. Three additional faculty members
    - iii. One House Staff Representative, such as a HSA committee officer or senior resident,
    - iv. A representative from the GME Department will be present during the appeal to serve as an administrative consult to ATF regarding GME policy and procedures. This representative is a non-voting member.
2. Appeal Task Force Solicitation of Documentation
  - a. The GME Committee Manager will solicit documentation and general information relevant to the corrective action under appeal from the appellant and the PD. The ATF Chair will review the documentation and make sure it is pertinent to the appeal prior to distributing to the ATF for review in advance of the meeting. Written documentation submitted to the ATF for deliberation, reports and minutes shall not be made available to either the PD or the appellant.
    - i. The PD will be expected to submit documentation that justifies and explains the reason for the corrective action that has been taken and is being appealed. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, summaries of counseling sessions, department/individual evaluations and anecdotal notes regarding specific incidents, memos or letters from other individuals who have been involved in associated incidents, action minutes of departmental educational committee meetings or any other information which appears pertinent.
    - ii. The appellant is asked to submit any information that he/she feels may help to explain the grounds for the appeal.
  - b. Both the PD and the appellant will be asked to provide a list of individuals with relevant information at that time. That list may include: fellow trainees, various members of the faculty, Allied Health personnel, patients or anyone else who may be in a position to have direct knowledge and eventually have an impact on

the appeal process decision. The list must include a brief two or three sentence explanation why each person is identified and what their potential input would be to the overall process. Members of the ATF may make recommendations as to whom they would like to interview for further clarification of events that lead to the corrective action.

- i. The Chair of the ATF will review the list of potential individuals with relevant and decide who will or will not be invited to attend the meeting.

### 3. Meeting Process

- a. The GME Committee Manager will set the agenda for the appeals meeting. The PD, appellant, and invited individuals with relevant information will be scheduled to meet with the ATF. The PD and the appellant will not be present before the ATF at the same time.
- b. The ATF will initially meet with the PD who will be asked to summarize the events, issues and overall factors that have led to the appealed action. The ATF may or may not question the PD at that time for additional facts and information and may choose to ask him/her to return if necessary to complete the information gathering process.
- c. The ATF will then meet with the appellant who will be offered an opportunity to present information in his/her defense. The ATF may or may not question the appellant at that time and may or may not ask them to return to complete the explanation of and/or questioning of the appellant.
- d. The ATF will meet with individuals who have relevant information identified by the Chair based on documentation previously submitted by the PD and appellant (if applicable).
- e. After scheduled meetings with all parties involved, the ATF will deliberate the need for additional interviews based on the information obtained.
  - i. If the ATF feels that additional information is needed to render a decision, they will then invite and interview additional individuals with relevant information from the list provided by the PD and appellant and/or other relevant individuals identified during the course of the interviews.
  - ii. At the discretion of the ATF, some of those on the original submitted list may not be called to give information if the reasons for their presence are either excessively redundant, seem inappropriate, or are felt to not affect the outcome of the appeal.
- f. When the ATF feels that it has obtained all of the pertinent information, it will take the matter under discussion until it is prepared to make a decision. A simple majority of the voting members of the ATF present will be required to act on the appeal. That action may either be to uphold the appeal, which in effect negates the corrective action taken by the training program or reject the appeal and thereby sustain the corrective action taken by the program.

### 4. Appeal Task Force Decision

- a. When the ATF has come to a majority decision, the information will be relayed to the Director of GME in writing within one week.
- b. The Director of GME will then inform both the appellant and the PD. In the event that a dismissal of a trainee is sustained, the salary and benefits of the trainee will cease the day following notification of the ATF decision to the appellant.

Confidential meeting minutes and other materials used in the appeals process will be maintained within the Department of GME in a secure location and will be accessible only by those who need access. These materials are only available for review if subpoenaed or requested by the Cleveland Clinic Office of General Council.

### **GME Remediation and Corrective Action- Standard Operating Procedure**

Purpose: The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the Graduate Medical Education (GME) guidelines for addressing any remediation and corrective actions (probation, non-promotion, non-reappointment, or dismissal). The Program Director (PD) and trainee should attempt to resolve any trainee's performance and/or behavior professionalism problems using verbal counseling and discussions prior to invoking the procedure set forth below. The procedure below is based on the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Requirements, however, all trainees, whether in an ACGME-accredited program or not, are held to the same standards and thus subject to the same procedure.

Instructions: When a trainee's academic and/or professional performance is below the expectations of their training program or if they fail to meet the professional standards of the Cleveland Clinic, the PD or designee should follow these steps for remediation and corrective action:

1. Verbal Counseling – When a trainee's academic and/or professional performance is below expectations of a training program, the PD or designee should verbally counsel a trainee about specific areas of deficiency. Verbal counseling may occur at any time, and as many times as necessary during a trainee's educational program. Notes regarding the counseling should be kept in the trainee's program/department file (not GME office) for future consultation/documentation, if needed.
2. Written Counseling – The PD engages the trainee in written counseling if under-performance continues without the desired improvement or other action/behavior of resident/fellow necessitates intervention. Written counseling involves the delivery of a written memo (*GME Counseling & Remediation Form*) to the trainee that specifies the reasons for the written counseling and specific remediation steps that are aimed to improve the trainee's performance, expectations and timeline thereof. The written counseling memo must be signed by the PD and trainee. The written counseling memo is kept in the program/department's file, not the trainee's formal GME file.
3. Probation – The PD can place a trainee on probation: (a) in the event that at the end of the timeline specified in the written counseling, the trainee's performance has not improved to the extent deemed acceptable by the program; (b) the severity of the action leading to the probation justifies skipping written counseling.

The PD must notify the GME Office prior to discussion of the probation with the trainee.

The program invokes probation status to the trainee by written notification and using the *GME Counseling & Remediation Form*. This formal written notification advises the trainee that his/her performance is not satisfactory and includes a clear statement that the trainee is on probation. This notice to the trainee needs to include a detailed description of the unsatisfactory performance, the expectations for performance improvement and time parameters in which performance is to improve. The PD and trainee shall sign for the receipt of the notice.

As a result of probation, and depending on the circumstances, a program may restrict a trainee clinical duties and other activities. Likewise, research fellow's duties and activities may be restricted or modified by the PD. Probation is considered a corrective disciplinary action, reportable to any credentialing agency or state licensing boards.

Probation status is issued for a predetermined period of time (e.g., three months), as determined by the PD and on the recommendation of the Clinical Competence Committee (CCC). The PD also has the discretion to extend any period of probation status based on progress made in targeted areas for improvement. A trainee who has been placed on probation shall have his/her progress toward performance improvement reviewed by the PD or designee on a regular basis and shall set the standard follow-up periods with the trainee at the time of probation (e.g. will meet every two weeks).

At the end of the probationary period, the PD meets again with the trainee. Depending on the trainee's performance, he/she may be: (1) removed from probation, (2) given an additional period of probation, or (3) be subject to termination or non-promotion/extension of training.

The PD informs the trainee, in writing, when the probation has been lifted and that all requirements of the probation are satisfied and no further disciplinary action is required. At this time, the PD and trainee sign the bottom of the *GME Counseling & Remediation Form* that documented the probation.

The PD or Program Coordinator (PC) sends a copy of the probation notice to the Director of GME. The Director of GME or designee will meet with the trainee to discuss the significance of the probation and the trainee right to appeal the probation (refer to the GME Appeals Process for more information). The trainee shall inform the Director of GME of the decision to accept or appeal the probation status within 10 calendar days of the meeting. If the trainee accepts the probation, it will be recorded in his/her permanent GME academic record. If the trainee chooses to appeal the corrective action, it will not be documented until an Appeal Task Force decision has been rendered. If no request for an appeal is received within the 10 calendar days from the meeting, the corrective action becomes final and no appeal will be permitted.

4. Other Corrective Actions a PD can take that the trainee shall have the right to appeal in the manner set forth in the GME Appeals Policy:

- a. Non-promotion (extension of training) – In instances where a trainee will not be promoted to the next level of training based on the program's predetermined criteria for promotion, the PD must notify the GME Office prior to discussion with the trainee.
- b. Non-reappointment – In instances where a trainee will not be reappointed to the training program based on the program's predetermined criteria for reappointment, the PD must notify the GME Office prior to discussion with the trainee.
- c. Dismissal – The PD must notify the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) if he/she intends to dismiss a trainee. Dismissal removes a trainee from a training program even though he/she holds a current Resident/Fellow Agreement. This involves immediate removal from an educational program for failing to maintain academic and/or other CC professional standards required to progress in or complete the program.

### **Board Eligibility/Training Extensions**

Some specialties may have specific requirements as to allowable time away during training as specified by the designated American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Member Board. Each Member Board has its own requirements for allowable time away (absence from training). When a clinical trainee requests a leave of absence, the Program Director is required to apprise the clinical trainee resident/fellow of an extension to training, if an extension is known to be required at that time. Certification requirements for each specialty may be reviewed on the [ABMS website](#) or [AOA website](#). Please refer to the section on Leave of Absence (LOA) in the clinical trainee sites Benefits and Conditions of Employment Information Booklet.

A clinical trainee may also be required to extend training to reach an acceptable level of performance to progress to the next graduate level or to successfully complete the training program. The Program Director is required to apprise the clinical trainee of an extension to training for deficient performance in accordance with the GME Promotion Policy. The Program Director should advise a clinical trainee/research fellows of reappointment without promotion or extension to successfully complete the training program at least four months before the end of the current appointment. If the primary cause of the non-promotion occurs within the four months prior to the end of the contract, Program Director must provide as much written notice as the circumstances reasonably allow. Specific board requirements regarding allowable time away are provided on the [ABMS website](#) for each accredited program and the [AOA website](#) for each Osteopathic program and should be provided to the clinical trainee at the beginning of the program and when a leave of absence may/will extend training.

### **Promotion**

All appointments shall be for a period not to exceed one year and may be renewed by the Director of Graduate Medical Education in writing, upon recommendation by the Program Director. Letters of reappointment generally are generated during the second half of each academic year. Due to the fact that these offers are generated in advance of the conclusion of the academic year, each such letter of appointment is issued contingent upon the clinical trainee/research fellow satisfactory completion of the current academic year. Therefore, in the

event a clinical trainee/research fellow is dismissed at any time during the academic year or if for any reason fails to satisfactorily complete the academic year, any previously issued reappointment letter shall be considered null and void. In the event a decision is made not to reappoint or not to promote to the next graduate level, the clinical trainee/research fellow should be advised of such decision in writing by the Program Director at least four months prior to the end of the appointment. If the primary reason(s) for the non-reappointment or non-promotion occur(s) within the four months prior to the end of the contract, the Program Director must provide the clinical trainee/research fellow with as much written notice of the intent not to reappoint or not to promote as the circumstances will reasonably allow, prior to the end of the current appointment. This notice shall include a description of the grounds for the decision not to renew the clinical trainee/research fellow appointment or not to promote to the next graduate level. Non-promotion includes any extension of training in the final year of the program. The clinical trainee/research fellow may appeal a non-reappointment or non-promotion by submitting a written request within two weeks of the meeting with the Director of GME or designee per the Appeal/Grievance process.

### **Certificates of Completion of Training**

Official Certificates of Completion of Training are issued to clinical trainees/research fellows who have successfully completed a Cleveland Clinic program in its entirety as determined by the program length approved by the GMEC. Research fellows who successfully complete at least six months of research in the same program are also eligible for a Certificate of Completion of Training. Clinical trainees/research fellows who do not meet the above criteria will receive, upon request, a letter verifying completion of their actual training at Cleveland Clinic.

The Certificate of Completion of Training will include the legal name of the clinical trainee/research fellow, dates of training and the name of the program as listed by the accrediting body or, in the case of non-accredited programs, as named when approved by the GMEC.

### **Termination Procedure**

When a clinical trainee/research fellow completes their training and leaves Cleveland Clinic for any reason, they are required to process out through the GME Office. The processing out procedure includes meeting all training program requirements, returning Cleveland Clinic's property and obtaining the signature on the Cleveland Clinic GME Checkout Form from either the Program Director, Program Coordinator or an authorize representative. The Cleveland Clinic GME Checkout Form will be sent via email by the Graduate Medical Education Department after a termination record has been entered into MedHub for the clinical trainee/research fellow. The completed Checkout form should be returned to the Graduate Medical Education Department. Clinical trainees who discontinue their appointment before their end date should submit a letter of resignation to Graduate Medical Education to be included in their MedHub file.

## Compensation & Benefits

Graduate Medical Education at the Cleveland Clinic offers a comprehensive and competitive benefits program that recognizes the needs of a diverse workforce, as well as providing individuals and families with meaningful benefit choices.

### FMLA

Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Cleveland Clinic allows eligible employees time off from work for up to 12 work weeks in a rolling 12-month leave year for qualifying employee's and family member's serious health conditions and family care events. Except in the case of leave to care for a covered service member with a serious illness or injury (see [FMLA - Military Family Leave of Absence policy](#)), an eligible employee's entitlement is limited to a total of 12 work weeks of leave during any leave year for all qualifying FMLA leaves. FMLA leave will run concurrently with other qualifying leaves (e.g. Workers' Compensation, short-term disability leave, etc.)

View the complete [FMLA Policy](#).

### GME Maternity Leave Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide information regarding eligibility for the Maternity Leave Program and to provide clear expectations regarding the request and approval process. It is the policy of Cleveland Clinic to provide income protection for a maximum of eight (8) consecutive weeks for eligible, full-time employees who are on authorized Maternity Leave.

View the complete [GME Maternity Leave Policy](#).

### GME Parental Leave Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide information regarding eligibility for the Parental Leave Program and to provide clear expectations regarding the request and approval process. It is the policy of Cleveland Clinic to provide income protection for a maximum of four (4) consecutive weeks for eligible, full-time employees who are on an authorized Leave of Absence to care for and/or bond with a newborn or a newly adopted child. An eligible parent is an employee who: (1) has given birth to a child; (2) is the spouse or partner of an individual who has given birth to a child; (3) is the biological parent, or spouse or partner of the biological parent of the child; (4) has adopted a child who is 17 years old or younger. This provision does not apply to the adoption of a stepchild by a stepparent or the placement of a foster child.

View the complete [GME Parental Leave Policy](#).

### Professional Liability

Cleveland Clinic provides professional liability coverage for all clinical trainees while working within the confines of the Cleveland Clinic training programs. This insurance provides coverage for acts or omissions that occur during the course and scope of performing professional

responsibilities as an employed clinical trainee of Cleveland Clinic. Outside rotations at participating sites that are a required component of the training program are included and covered under the professional liability coverage offered by Cleveland Clinic. Elective rotations outside of Cleveland Clinic are not covered by Cleveland Clinic professional liability coverage. Upon completion of the training program, this professional liability coverage remains in effect for any litigation that may arise from incidents that occurred while the clinical trainee was in training. The clinical trainee does not have to purchase any “tail” coverage when they leave. After the clinical trainee leaves the Clinic, verification of professional liability insurance can be obtained. For more information, refer to the [Enterprise Risk & Insurance website](#)

## **Salary & Benefit Requirements**

Cleveland Clinic is dedicated to providing a fair and equitable salary and benefit package for all trainees. In addition, there are U.S. government regulations to which Cleveland Clinic must adhere. The following reflects our consideration of trainees’ needs as well as U.S. government regulations.

### **H-1B Visa Information**

Trainees in H-1B status must be paid by the employer (CC) and must be at or above prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics; there are no exceptions to this rule. In addition, the employer is responsible for costs associated with the filing of the H-1B petition. Funds may not be transferred from a third party to cover the wages and benefits. ALL FUNDS must be from CC sources.

Clinical trainees being paid by Cleveland Clinic are to be paid at the graduate level required to enter the program; additional compensation is not provided to those who have completed training above and beyond those requirements. Under certain circumstances clinical trainees may be funded by a source outside Cleveland Clinic; however, they may not use personal funds. The source of funding must be verified prior to appointment. Please contact GME for additional information.

All individuals appointed through Graduate Medical Education Department will be offered medical benefits through the CCHS Health Plan for themselves and any eligible dependents regardless of whether or not they are receiving a salary from Cleveland Clinic. Trainees appointed through the GME Department cannot be required to provide their own medical insurance or reimburse their department for medical insurance for themselves or their eligible dependents. Medical insurance provided by outside funding sources, such as a foreign government, are not acceptable as they may not be accepted by health providers in the U.S.

## **Complaint & Problem Resolution**

This policy is intended to provide clinical trainee/research fellows with the opportunity to raise and resolve issues in their training program without fear of intimidation or retaliation. When a

trainee experiences a problem such as perceived harassment, unfair treatment, concerns regarding work environment, program noncompliance with ACGME, RC or Cleveland Clinic requirements or procedural discrepancies/inequities, it is best handled within the program whenever possible. Trainees are encouraged to engage the Chief Resident, Program Director, Principle Investigator, Department Chairman, Advisor or other designated individuals in the training program in resolving issues or complaints. Occasionally, these issues are unable to be resolved at the program level, in which case the clinical trainee/research fellow is encouraged to contact the GME office at to arrange a meeting. The trainee will be scheduled to meet with the Director of Graduate Medical Education, Administrative Director of Education Center, or a designee to discuss the issue or complaint. Every attempt will be made by GME leadership to investigate and resolve the reported issues/complaints.

If a workable solution is not reached by the Manager and Administrator of Education Center, the clinical trainee/research fellow may choose to bring the matter before the Graduate Medical Education Council. Findings and action taken by the Graduate Medical Education Council are considered final and binding on all parties involved.

## House Staff Resources

### Employee Wellness Program

Employee Wellness Mission: To support and empower employees to incorporate wellness into their daily lives resulting in a more active, healthy and engaged workforce. This mission is accomplished through a variety of programs including Cleveland Clinic sponsored fitness centers, yoga, Wellness Grand Rounds, Wellness Connection, Wellness Walks and other events throughout the year. In addition, an engaged Wellness Champions program helps spread wellness initiatives and programming throughout the system in support of the Employee Wellness department.

### Caring For Caregivers

Cleveland Clinic is committed to the wellbeing of its caregivers and understands how personal

The Caring for Caregivers Programs help caregivers take care of themselves and maintain their ability to provide a world class patient experience. The programs offer expert, confidential and free support through the: Professional Staff Assistance Program (PSAP), Licensed Professionals Health Program (LPHP), Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and Wellbeing Resource and Referral Center. Together these programs demonstrate the importance Cleveland Clinic places on caring for our caregivers. To receive more information, please refer to the [Caring for Caregivers](#) site.

and work stresses can impact our quality of life and ability to provide skillful and compassionate care.

Caring for Caregivers (CFC) offers private and confidential assessment, short-term counseling

and follow-up services to benefit-eligible employees and their dependent family members. Enrollment in Cleveland Clinic health care is not required for access to Caring for Caregivers' services.

### **GME Department Functions**

Providing a quality educational experience to our clinical trainees/research fellows is our number one job, which is why our Graduate Medical Education caregivers are committed to ensuring that our training programs meet or exceed national and institutional standards. The GME Department helps in the following areas:

- Administration: oversees and monitors program accreditation, the exchange visitor visa program and all institutional policies affecting GME programs.
- Human Resources: recruit trainees, administer payroll, authorize benefits and verify employment as well as perform other HR-related functions.
- Customer Service: resource center for questions about graduate medical education.
- Notary: this service is provided free of charge.

### **Trainee Lounge and On Call Rooms**

Purpose: To provide safe, secure areas in which clinical trainees, and others assigned to overnight call at the hospital can sleep to alleviate fatigue thus increasing their own well-being and enhancing patient care. Each room is equipped with a bed, linens, telephone, work station (includes computer, desk and chair), and nightstand. Access to private bathrooms with showers, sinks and toilets are available on-call room lounge. The trainee lounge receives snack deliveries three times a week.

Environment Services performs daily lounge maintenance, including trash pickup, change of bed linens in each sleep room, bathroom maintenance.

Environment Services is not responsible for maintaining and cleaning any refrigerator in the trainee lounge. It is the responsibility of the trainees to clean out the refrigerator weekly.

Statement on Trainee Lounge and On Call Rooms:

1. On-call rooms and amenities within them are issued by Graduate Medical Education Department and are considered property of the Cleveland Clinic.
2. Use of an on-call room by a person other than who it is assigned is forbidden.
3. The GME office and the Cleveland Clinic retains the right to conduct routine and random on-call room inspections at any time and without prior warning or approval. Misuse of these facilities may be cause for corrective action.
4. The GME Office and the Cleveland Clinic are not responsible for personal property that is lost or stolen. All users are encouraged to leave valuables at home.
5. All personal property must be stored completely within the on-call room and removed after call. All items left outside of the on-call room, whether secured or not, will be removed and disposed of accordingly.
6. Flammable materials, dangerous chemicals, explosives or weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited inside of the on-call room.

7. It is each user's responsibility to keep his or her on-call room neat and clean at all times.
8. Illegal or controlled substances such as drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited inside the on-call room.

By having access to the On-Call Rooms the user agrees to abide by above On-Call Room policy/procedure.

## Institutional Policies

### Hand Off Communication Policy

**Purpose:** To enhance communication when care of a patient is being transferred from one caregiver to another, in permanent and/or temporary situations. Many patients depend on those who provide care to coordinate services whether tests, consultations, or procedures to ensure that accurate and timely information reaches those who need it at the appropriate time. This framework provides for effective communication among members of the health care team in order to ensure consistency of communications and continuity of treatment through a standardized approach to giving and receiving information across the care continuum.

**Policy Statement:** All caregivers, including but not limited to physicians, residents, licensed independent practitioners (LIP), Care Coordinators, nurses, therapists and transporters, will allocate sufficient time to perform and receive hand off information when patient care is transferred to another caregiver.

**Policy Implementation:** Hand off communication of patient care will occur in relationship to, but not limited, to the following circumstances:

Cleveland Clinic's process for effective hand off communication includes the following:

- Interactive communication that allows the opportunity for questioning and responding to questions between the giver and receiver of patient information
- Up-to-date information regarding the patient's condition, care, treatment, medications, services, and any recent or anticipated change
- A method to verify the received information, including repeat-back or read-back techniques
- An opportunity for the receiver of the hand-off information to review relevant patient historical data, which may include previous care, treatment, and services

Interruptions during hand off are limited to minimize the possibility that information fails to be conveyed or is forgotten. Hand-off communication will occur prior to providing care except in the case of urgent or emergent patient needs.

- Transfer of complete responsibility for a patient such as a primary care physician, LIP or Care Coordinator
- Transfer of on-call responsibility
- Transfer of patients between units, including admissions from the Emergency Department and from ambulatory care settings
- Transfer of care in procedural areas, such as, the surgical invasive procedure care environment, including surgery, PACU, ICU Ambulatory Surgery, Cath Lab, Cardiovascular Care Unit Holding, Dialysis, and Interventional Radiology
- Transfer of care to another hospital, nursing home, home care agency or referring facility; include providing hand-off to transport services/personnel
- Transportation of patients to and/or from patient care areas to diagnostic or procedural areas
- Change-of-shift reports
- Anesthesia provider report to post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) caregivers
- Temporary assignment of responsibility of care when staff leaves a unit for a short period of time (e.g. lunch breaks, off-unit minutes, special studies, hemodialysis, endoscopy)
- Patient undergoing exam or treatment in ancillary service area requiring adjunct medication therapy or ongoing patient monitoring, including but not limited to, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech, Respiratory Services, Imaging, Non-Invasive Cardiology

View the complete [Hand Off Communication Policy](#).

### Personal Appearance Policy

Cleveland Clinic recognizes the importance of the professional appearance of its staff in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to the delivery of quality health care services. To promote such an atmosphere, clinical trainees/research fellows are expected to dress in a manner appropriate to the jobs that they perform and the professional level they represent. Although it is not necessary to recount all of the components in the employee policy, the following tenets are set forth for clinical trainees:

- Clinical trainees must present themselves in appropriate attire to reflect their position. Male trainees, when caring for patients, should be dressed in a dress shirt and slacks with appropriate footwear and lab coat. Male trainees are encouraged to wear ties unless they pose a safety hazard. Female trainees should be dressed in appropriate business attire which would include suits, dresses or appropriate top and slacks, with appropriate footwear and lab coat.
- Clothing should be neat, clean and in good condition. Clinical trainees/research fellows should be dressed in a fashion that represents their professional level. Hair should be clean and well groomed (including facial hair).
- Furnished Cleveland Clinic uniforms or other garments are expected to be kept clean, pressed and in good repair. Ceil blue scrubs must be laundered by Cleveland Clinic and are to be worn within Cleveland Clinic only (not worn to and from Cleveland Clinic). Caps, booties and masks should be removed when outside of the operating room. Misty

green scrubs are the clinical trainee's responsibility to launder.

- When responding to after-hours or weekend calls, appropriate business casual attire may be worn. Business casual attire includes casual slacks, shirts without ties, polo shirts and shirts or blouses with collars.
- The employee ID Badge must be worn above the waist, in compliance with Clinic policy.

Failure to adhere to standards of dress and grooming may result in corrective action.

View the complete [Professional Appearance Policy](#).

### **Scrub Personnel Responsibility Policy**

The scrub personnel responsibility information listed here is to encourage hygiene, ensure

No surgical attire (ceil blue scrubs or surgical white) can be worn outside of the hospital/facility or to and from work. Staff and employees must change into ceil blue scrubs or surgical whites once they enter their work locations and change again before leaving work. When leaving the surgical or procedure rooms, ceil blue scrubs and surgical whites must be covered with white buttoned lab coats or warm up jackets, while inside the hospital (i.e. during a lunch break in the cafeteria, running an errand outside of the surgical department). However, this attire cannot be worn when traveling to and from work). Employees must completely change out of ceil blue scrubs or surgical whites with or without a lab coat or warm up jacket before leaving the premises. Disposable hats, masks, gowns, gloves and shoe coverings, must be removed when leaving surgical departments. Discard these items prior to leaving the surgical department or procedure rooms.

OSHA compliance, promote compliance with infection control and preserve our public image. Employees and Staff will be held accountable for compliance. Supervisors will be asked to enforce compliance with the policy and will issue verbal warnings, anecdotal notes and corrective action in cases of non-compliance. Institute chairs will be notified of frequent offenders. Signs have been posted throughout surgical departments to remind employees to remove disposable caps, masks, shoe covers and gowns. Please help remind colleagues of this policy, and do your part to encourage hygiene, ensure OSHA compliance, promote compliance with infection control and preserve our public image.

### **Florida Vendor Visitation and Interaction Policy**

Cleveland Clinic's mission serves to promote medical research and quality patient care in a safe environment. Cleveland Clinic recognizes that from time-to-time, non-organizational personnel, including Vendor Representatives, can play an important role in a patient's care and may be present in the Cleveland Clinic's Operating Room (OR) at the request of the attending physicians, surgeons, anesthesiologists, or appropriate hospital administrators. This policy

serves to establish uniform guidelines for permitting vendor representative access to Cleveland Clinic's OR and associated areas so as to ensure reasonable control and identification of Vendor Representatives, while ensuring safe patient care.

## **Social Media Use Policy**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide all Cleveland Clinic employees with rules and standards for participation in social media (also known as social networking). This policy will also apply to any students, volunteers, contractors or vendors who are obligated to comply with Cleveland Clinic policies and procedures. The intent of this policy is not to restrict the flow of useful and appropriate information, but to safeguard the interests of Cleveland Clinic, its employees and its patients. This policy is not intended to limit any employee's rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) and does not apply to communications protected by the NLRA. Although Cleveland Clinic recognizes the value of social media as a tool for communicating and gathering information, time spent posting on or viewing social media sites must not interfere with job responsibilities.

**Social Media (Social Networking) –** Social media and social networking include, but are not limited to the following:

- Cleveland Clinic internal intranet sites and blogs
- Cleveland Clinic publicly facing internet web sites
- Social networking sites, such as Facebook®, MySpace® or LinkedIn®
- Blogs (including corporate or personal blogs and comments to blogs) and other on-line journals and diaries
- Forums and chat rooms, such as discussion boards, Yahoo! Groups® or Google® Groups
- Microblogging, such as Twitter®
- Online encyclopedias, such as Wikipedia®
- Video or image based sites such as Flickr®, YouTube® and similar media

In addition to posting on websites like those mentioned above, social media and social networking also include permitting or not removing postings by others where an employee can control the content of postings, such as on a personal profile or blog.

View the complete [Social Media Use Policy](#).

## **Use of Electronic Devices**

**Cellular Phones:** All workers are required to use Cleveland Clinic-approved encryption technology when confidential or restricted confidential data is stored on a mobile computing device, including but not limited to cell phones. Please review the [Mobile Device Guidelines](#).

iPhone for Clinical Trainees: Trainees are issued an Apple iPhone to make patient care activities safer and more efficient. Clinical trainees will have 24/7 access to Cleveland Clinic email and can take advantage of various clinical applications including IRIS and Haiku. IRIS and Haiku offer secure access to patient data that reside in the EMR. The ability to connect to patients' medical records instantly is another step toward transforming the delivery of quality patient care.

#### Things to know about clinical trainee iPhones

1. The plan gives:
  - a. 3GB monthly pooled data, with unlimited minutes and text messages
  - b. Free long-distance for calls within the U.S.
  - c. The plan doesn't include international data and calls
2. If the iPhone gets lost, broken or stolen, the clinical trainee is financially responsible for replacing it. The current replacement cost is \$99 (subject to change). Inform the Program Coordinator and then call the HELP Desk (954-659-5555, option 4).
3. Do not upgrade to the newest IOS until IT approves the upgrade
4. Clinical trainees have access to key applications such as IRIS (secure access to MyPractice), Cleveland Clinic email and [MedHub](#).

#### Things to know about iPhone Etiquette:

1. When using an iPhone around a patient, acknowledge the patient and inform them that a work phone is being used. Do not ignore the patient or family members while using the phone.
2. Do not send patient information via text message.
3. Do not use speaker phone in a public area if discussing patient information.

Personal use: Using the Cleveland Clinic-issued iPhone for personal use is permitted. However, clinical trainees cannot port their personal mobile number to their Cleveland Clinic iPhone. Once a clinical trainee leaves, they will have limited functionality, retrieval and storage of personal data from the iCloud. Cleveland Clinic treats all information transmitted or stored in its computers and systems, including email and voice mail messages, as Cleveland Clinic business information. Instant messaging, social media use in a business capacity, and any other business chat data related to Cleveland Clinic are considered company information. All files and other information stored on Cleveland Clinic computers and systems, even if considered personal by an employee, are business information, and remain the property of Cleveland Clinic. Cleveland Clinic may review or use such business information as it deems appropriate.

Email: Employees must use their Cleveland Clinic email account and network for all Cleveland Clinic business communication. The use of personal email or cloud storage providers poses a serious risk of violating patient privacy and potential loss of Cleveland Clinic Intellectual Property (IP). Always check with the department's IT representative or Compliance Office if unsure. Employees are prohibited from auto-forwarding Cleveland Clinic email to a personal email account.

Photography: The use of electronic imaging function of cell phones (i.e., phone cameras) is

prohibited on Cleveland Clinic premises except when conducting authorized or approved Cleveland Clinic business. The use of a personal cell phone or other personal recording device to record or maintain PHI is strictly prohibited unless first approved by the Cybersecurity Department.

View the [Cybersecurity Page](#).

Harassment, Fraud or Illegal Activity: Cleveland Clinic prohibits the use of its telephones, owned cellular phones and voicemail systems for purposes of harassment, fraud or other illegal activity.

View the complete [Acceptable Use of Information Assets Policy](#).

### **Professional Conduct Policy**

**Purpose:** This policy is to define disruptive and inappropriate behavior involving clinical trainees/research fellows and to delineate the response to be followed in all cases involving such behavior. In almost all cases the institution's response to inappropriate behavior is initially directed towards remediation rather than punishment. It is recognized that it will be beneficial to patients to keep clinical trainees at work in the practice setting. This policy has this as its objective. Unprofessional behavior compromises the ability to provide the best quality care to patients so that behavior must change. It is expected that in almost all cases it will be possible, after intervention, for the clinical trainee and those around him or her to work together to achieve the common goal of continuing to provide the best quality patient care. Depending on severity and response to intervention, disruptive behavior by clinical trainees or refusal of trainees to cooperate with the procedures described in this policy, may result in corrective action, which shall be carried out according to the Graduate Physicians Manual.

**Background:** Most health care professionals entering their chosen discipline have a strong interest in caring for and helping other human beings. They try to carry out their duties in a manner consistent with this ideal, maintaining a high level of professionalism. Intimidating and disruptive behavior by physicians and others can erode this professionalism and contributes to an unhealthy and hostile work environment. Such an environment can jeopardize patient safety, contribute to poor patient outcomes, increase the cost of care, and cause clinical personnel, administrators and managers to seek new positions in more professional environments.

**Policy:** The stated mission of the Cleveland Clinic fosters the highest levels of professional conduct from its health care professionals in order to fulfill that mission. In doing so, Cleveland Clinic strongly desires and expects an environment free from disruptive, threatening, and violent behavior, and does not tolerate inappropriate, unprofessional or intimidating behavior within the workplace. This policy emphasizes the need for all individuals working in Cleveland Clinic to treat others with respect, courtesy, and dignity and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Patients, visitors, healthcare professionals and all employees must be treated with courtesy, respect, and dignity. This policy is in complementary to and consistent with, the Cleveland Clinic Code of Conduct and other communications addressing appropriate

conduct, such as the MyLearning Module on Disruptive Behavior and Code of Conduct initiatives by Cleveland Clinic Institutes.

Behavior by clinical trainees/research fellows that generates a complaint by any other person(s), including patients, will be responded to according to this policy and referred to the Chairman, Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC). Behavior that indicates that the clinical trainee/research fellow suffers from a physical, mental or emotional condition will be referred to the Physician Health Committee or otherwise evaluated with the intent to assist the clinical trainee/research fellow. The Physician Health Committee can be particularly helpful in monitoring a troubled trainee, enabling the clinical trainee/research fellow to be helped while preserving the clinical trainee/research fellow's residency or fellowship training. The process of inquiry into and response to inappropriate behavior by clinical trainees/research fellows is confidential.

Disruptive behavior means any behavior that prevents or interferes with an individual's or group's clinical/academic performance or creates an unprofessional, unsafe, intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment and jeopardizes or is inconsistent with quality patient care or with the ability of others to provide quality patient care at the hospital. While there can be increasing levels of severity with respect to the type of disruptive behavior, there may be incidents that rise to a more serious level, due not to their severity but, to the repetitiveness of

Three levels of severity of disruptive behavior:

- Level I: Verbal abuse which is directed at-large, but has been reasonably perceived by a witness to be disruptive behavior as defined above
- Level II: Verbal abuse such as unwarranted yelling, swearing or cursing; threatening, humiliating, sexual or otherwise inappropriate comments directed at a person or persons or physical violence or abuse directed in anger at an inanimate object (including throwing objects in anger); discrimination or retaliation
- Level III: Physical violence or other physical abuse which is directed at people; sexual harassment involving physical contact; and persistent Level II & III behavior that is unresponsive to remediation

the action in spite of previous counseling and intervention.

Active vs. Passive: Disruptive/inappropriate behavior can be overt or passive; either type can undermine the team's effectiveness or compromise the safety of patients. For purposes of this policy, examples of overt disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- Threatening or abusive language directed at hospital personnel, patients or other physicians (e.g., belittling, berating and/or threatening another individual)
- Threats of harm or actions that can reasonably be interpreted as threatening
- Degrading or demeaning comments regarding patients, families, nurses, physicians, hospital personnel or the hospital

- Profanity or similarly offensive language while in the hospital and/or while speaking with hospital personnel
- Inappropriate physical contact with another individual that is unwelcome, threatening or intimidating
- Public derogatory comments about the quality of care being provided by other physicians, nursing personnel or the hospital
- Harassment (e.g. sexual)

Examples of passive disruptive conduct include but are not limited to the following:

- Exhibiting uncooperative attitudes during routine activities
- Reluctance or refusal to answer questions about patient care, return calls or pages
- Condescending language or voice intonation
- Inappropriate medical record entries concerning the quality of care being provided by the hospital or any other individual
- Acts of discrimination or retaliation

It is recognized that due to circumstances, it may be necessary to exercise clear and sometimes presumed forceful medical direction to focus on acute patient care. This in and of itself, does not necessarily constitute inappropriate behavior. However, even in the most acute circumstances, intimidating, belittling, offensive and/or threatening behavior or language is not appropriate and can be counterproductive to obtaining the cooperation of those involved in the emergency response.

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or verbal or physical activity through which submission to sexual advances is made an explicit or implicit condition of employment or future employment-related decisions. It is also defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a person's work performance or which creates an offensive, intimidating or otherwise hostile work environment.

Communication & Education: Cleveland Clinic is committed to educate all healthcare team members, both physicians and non-physician staff, on appropriate professional behavior including the following efforts: sponsoring or supporting educational programs on disruptive behavior to be offered to clinical trainees/research fellows, professional staff members and hospital employees; educational programs emphasizing civility, respect, basic business etiquette and people skills; skills-based training and coaching are provided for leaders and managers in relationship-building and collaborative practice, including skills for giving feedback on unprofessional behavior and conflict resolution; surveying and assessing health care professionals perceptions of unprofessional behavior; disseminating this policy to all current clinical trainees/research fellows upon the adoption of the policy and to all new clinical trainees/research fellows upon joining a Cleveland Clinic training program; requiring that clinical trainees/research fellows positively affirm they have reviewed the educational material (via the MyLearning module on disruptive behavior) and agree to comply with this policy.

Direct Interactions and Reporting: Each Cleveland Clinic health professional is responsible for protecting our positive work environment. When a conduct violation occurs it may be possible for the involved team members to deal with the issue person-to-person through direct professional conversations which can precede the formal professional conduct management process.

#### Empowerment in Team Interactions:

- Team members are encouraged to avail themselves of the option, whenever feasible to speak directly with the other party whenever civility, respect and team function are below standard. E-mail is never appropriate for this purpose.
- It is recognized that some team members may lack the training required for such an interaction and that further such training is needed. The option to interact at the front-line level is not meant to preclude the individual's right to report inappropriate behavior as outlined below.
- Even when an incident of inappropriate behavior on the part of another team member occurs, the remainder of the team is expected to continue excellent patient care and adhere to the highest standard of interaction.
- At an appropriate time, after the incident and out of earshot of patients and others, a team member may initiate a civil, non-confrontational but crucial conversation with the other presumed offending team member. In doing so, the team member should use statements that confirm the value of the person to the team or organization (if this is the case) while asking what led to the observed behavior, why it appeared to the observer to be disruptive and whether there was unexpected occurrence that led to it and if the person understood why it was below expected standards of behavior.
- Using this approach, a resolution of the conflict (e.g. verbalized mutual understanding, apology or pursuit at a higher level) should be sought to preserve mutual respect and professionalism.

Reporting Conflict Management at the Next Level: When a team member is not able to do the above, the expectation is that he or she informs his or her Program Director, the Human Resources Department or the Graduate Medical Education Department of the inappropriate behavior issue. Regardless of the reporting pathway, all such complaints must be communicated to the Chairman, GMEC who works with the clinical trainee/research fellow's Program Director to address the complaint. Any individuals who report policy violations are protected from retribution as are those who cooperate in the investigation of intimidating, disruptive and other unprofessional behavior. Individuals who have reason to believe that their complaints have not been dealt with should report the inappropriate conduct further up their chain of command to the Chairman GMEC or to the Chairman Education Institute. It is expected that a Program Director acts in a timely fashion to investigate and take appropriate action regarding any allegation of disruptive behavior. This includes letting the complainant know in general terms, what is being done in response. Cleveland Clinic intends that questions about whether a physician's conduct is or is not ethical, shall be determined by the definitions and guidance found in the current edition of the American Medical Association Code of Medical Ethics. The Code can be accessed via the [AMA website](#).

Complaints about a clinical trainee/research fellows regarding alleged disruptive behavior should ideally include:

- Date(s) and time(s) of the behavior in question
- A factual description of the questionable behavior
- The name of any patient or patient's family member who was involved in the incident, including any patient or family member who witnessed the incident
- The circumstances which precipitated the incident
- The names of other witnesses to the incident
- Consequences; if any, of the inappropriate conduct as it relates to patient care, personnel or hospital operations
- Any action taken to intervene in or remedy, the incident

Violations, especially by non-physician personnel, may also be reported to the Human Resources Department. For Professional Staff, reports about inappropriate behavior should utilize the pathway identified by the Chief of Staff or Professional Conduct Committee. Refer patients and/or their families who report witnessing intimidating and/or disruptive behaviors to the Ombudsman's Office. The response should include hearing and empathizing with patients' concerns, thanking them for sharing those concerns and apologizing. Immediately report to Cleveland Clinic Weston Protective Services (954-659-5025) any actions which pose or appear to pose an immediate threat of physical harm to any individual in order to safeguard the health and safety of others. Immediately report all violations that appear to involve discrimination, retaliation or sexual/other harassment to the respective institute chair, Human Resources Department or Chairman, GMEC.

Role of the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC): Council consists of representatives of the various clinical Institute Education Committees and is chaired by the Director of Graduate Medical Education. Other Cleveland Clinic personnel involved in graduate medical education may also serve as members of this group. The Chairman, GMEC (or designee) will act on behalf of the Council in matters concerning professional conduct and as such will determine when issues need to be brought to the GMEC as a group. The purpose of this council is to oversee and monitor graduate medical education programs and trainees to assure training programs meet the high academic standards established and residents and fellows are provided with the requisite skills in a professional environment to deliver safe appropriate patient care.

The exact flow of how information regarding inappropriate trainee behavior gets to the Chairman, GMEC is not critical; normally the Chairman, GMEC will be contacted initially by the Program Director, Human Resources or Professional Staff Affairs and determine the appropriate initial course of action. The Chairman, GMEC, on receiving the complaint, shall request that the trainee's Program Director interview the complainant to begin initial discussion regarding the complaint. As necessary, any witnesses or other appropriate parties will be interviewed by the Chairman of the GMEC (or designee). This shall be done routinely, expeditiously or immediately, depending on whether the complaint is level I, II or III. The Chairman, GMEC shall then meet with the reported clinical trainee/research fellow if necessary and provide that individual the opportunity to respond in writing as well as in person. The Chairman, GMEC should, in the investigation, address potential causes and mitigating factors, such as stress, fatigue, personality disorders and incompetence on the part of the accused or the accuser.

The GMEC Chairman's action may consist of one or more of the following:

1. Determine that no action is warranted
2. Recommend the reported clinical trainee/research fellow develop an action plan to avoid future incidents
3. Require a written apology to the complainant
4. Recommend to the clinical trainee/research fellow Program Director
  - a) counseling (verbal or written)
  - b) referral to the Physician Health Committee
  - c) implement formal remediation plan
5. Consideration of other disciplinary action pursuant to the Graduate Physicians Manual. Recommendation of further disciplinary action (beyond counseling) may result in a GMEC Task Force being formed to review the allegations, complainant response, information from witnesses and review and assessment of the severity of the incident

#### Responses to Inappropriate Physician Behavior

##### Principles:

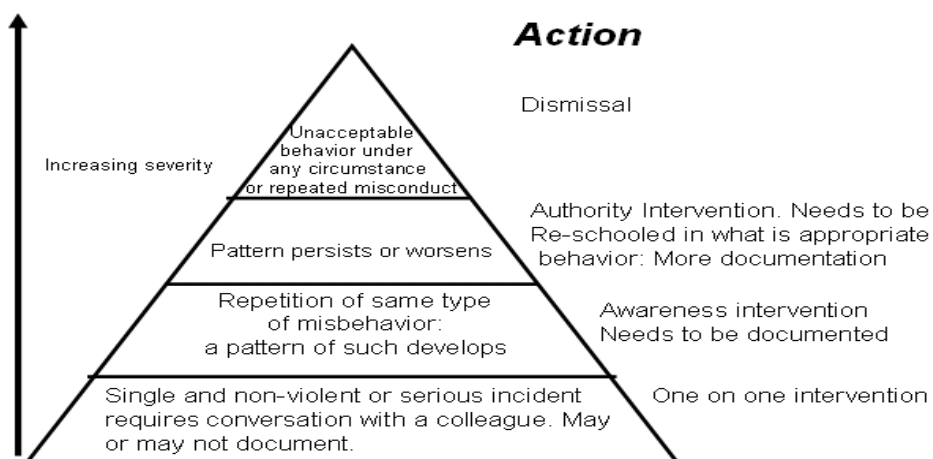
1. It is recognized that disciplinary action has far-ranging consequences for health professionals and in particular for physicians. Therefore, every effort should be made to educate and remediate before proceeding to disciplinary steps.
2. All Cleveland Clinic team members are held accountable for modeling desirable behaviors; the code of conduct is enforced consistently and equitably among all Cleveland Clinic health professionals. All interventions are conducted within the context of the organizational commitment to the health and well-being of our clinical trainee/research fellow with resources to support individuals whose behavior is caused or influenced by physical or mental health pathologies.
3. Based on level of severity, interventions should begin with non-confrontational steps starting with informal conversations at the level of the Program Director and/or Department Chair, directly addressing the problem and moving toward action. These initial interventions should always aim to build trust, place accountability on and rehabilitate the offending trainee, while protecting patient safety.
4. If inappropriate behavior patterns persist, progressive responses are instituted. Formal counseling and other disciplinary steps are initiated in accordance with the appropriate Cleveland Clinic policies and procedures depending on the recommendations of the Program Director in collaboration with the Chairman, GMEC based on the specific facts and circumstances of the case.
5. Level III behavior is the most severe violation of this policy. Responses will be commensurate with the nature and severity of the disruptive behavior.
6. Repeated instances of disruptive behavior will be considered cumulatively and action shall be taken accordingly. Such significant violations or a pattern of disruptive behavior may result in serious action, up to and including dismissal. If of sufficient gravity, even a single instance of disruptive behavior may be sufficient to merit disciplinary or corrective action, including dismissal. Cleveland Clinic has "zero tolerance" for intimidating and/or disruptive behaviors, especially the most egregious instances of disruptive behavior such as assault, sexual harassment and other criminal acts.

Process:

1. Responses are staged based on severity level of inappropriate conduct.
2. The Chairman, GMEC (and the GMEC in certain circumstances) investigates and acts on reports of inappropriate conduct, in collaboration with the trainee's Program Director and Department Chair.
3. The Chairman, GMEC reviews the recommendations with the Education Institute Chairman and institutes appropriate intervention in collaboration with the Program Director and Department Chair.
4. Where applicable, a follow-up report is submitted to the Chairman, GMEC and the Chairman, Education Institute by the involved Institute Chair, addressing the outcome of the intervention.

Abuse of Process: Threats or actions directed against the complainant by the subject of the complaint will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Retaliation or attempted retaliation by members against complainants will give rise to corrective action pursuant to the Major Policies of the Professional Staff. Individuals who submit a complaint or complaints which are determined to be false shall be subject to corrective action under the Professional Staff bylaws or hospital employment policies, whichever applies to the individual.

View the complete [Professional Conduct Policy](#).



Modified from Hickson et al. 2007

### Lactation Break Policy

Recognizing the well documented health advantages of breastfeeding for infants and mothers, this policy provides clear expectations for a supportive environment to enable breastfeeding employees to express their milk during work hours.

All employees who are breastfeeding a child, and who need to express milk during their scheduled work time, may express milk during normal breaks and meal times, and will also be provided other reasonable break time(s) to express milk. A reasonable break time shall be provided each time such employee has a need to express milk, up to one (1) year after the date of the birth of the employee's nursing child.

A private, sanitary space, or designated lactation room, shall be available where the nursing mother is shielded from view and free from intrusion of her co-workers and the public. Lactation rooms and private space are provided throughout the enterprise for employees to express milk during scheduled work time. If employees prefer, they may also express milk in their own private offices, or in other private locations agreed upon in consultation with the employee's supervisor. Space must be completely private to ensure no one can see inside the space and no one is able or permitted to enter the space while it is being used to express milk. The space provided cannot be a restroom.

View the complete [Lactation Break Policy](#).

View complete listing of [Florida Lactation Rooms](#)

### **Disability Accommodation in Education**

This policy confirms Cleveland Clinic's commitment to provide access to educational opportunities for qualified students and applicants with disabilities and establishes criteria for the consideration of requests for reasonable accommodation by such students and applicants. This policy reflects Cleveland Clinic's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and all other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Cleveland Clinic does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in regard to their application to, or participation in, educational programs or activities. Cleveland Clinic will make, upon the request of a qualified individual with a disability and under the conditions described herein, a reasonable accommodation to permit such individual to participate in an educational program or activity.

View the complete [Disability Accommodation in Education Policy](#).

### **Disability Accommodation in Education Appeals Procedure**

To support the [Disability Accommodation in Education Policy](#) (the "Policy") in order to provide an opportunity for individuals who have requested a reasonable accommodation to appeal the failure to engage in the interactive process, the denial of a request for Reasonable Accommodation, or a decision to provide an accommodation that the individual does not accept.

View the complete [Disability Accommodation in Education Appeals Procedure](#).

### **Non-Discrimination, Harassment or Retaliation Policy**

This policy affirms Cleveland Clinic's commitment to provide a work environment that is free from discrimination or harassment, defines the types of prohibited harassment and provides a process for reporting and investigating complaints of discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation.

View the complete [Non-Discrimination, Harassment or Retaliation Policy](#).

## Sexual Misconduct in Education

This policy expresses Cleveland Clinic's commitment to equal opportunity in its educational programs and activities and establishes a procedure for addressing reports of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence and retaliation in those programs and activities. This policy reflects Cleveland Clinic's compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, and all other relevant laws and regulations.

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) and other applicable statutes and regulations, Cleveland Clinic prohibits all forms of discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity in its educational programs and activities. Prohibited conduct under this policy includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence and retaliation, as those terms are defined herein.

This policy applies to all individuals participating in Cleveland Clinic educational programs and activities, including, without limitation, employees, Professional Staff, medical and other residents, researchers, fellows, interns, students enrolled in Cleveland Clinic and affiliate programs, and third parties (such as patients, vendors and visitors). This policy applies to conduct on Cleveland Clinic property and to locations, events, or circumstances where Cleveland Clinic exercises substantial control over the person alleged to have engaged in the conduct and the context in which it occurred.

View the complete [Sexual Misconduct in Education \(IX\) Policy](#).

## Drug Free Workplace

Substance Abuse: Cleveland Clinic is committed to maintaining a safe, healthful and efficient working environment for its employees, patients and visitors. Consistent with the spirit and intent of this commitment, Cleveland Clinic prohibits:

- The unlawful or unauthorized use, manufacture, possession, sale or transfer of illegal drugs and/or controlled substances on Cleveland Clinic premises
- Reporting to work or working impaired or under the influence of any illegal drug, controlled substance, and/or alcohol
- Consumption of alcohol (except at approved or sponsored Cleveland Clinic functions) on Cleveland Clinic premise
- Improper self-medication of over-the-counter or prescribed drugs on Cleveland Clinic premises

Physician Impairment: Impairment is defined as "inability to practice medicine in a competent, consistent and ethical manner for reasons of illness, excessive stress or substance misuse."

Physical, emotional and psychiatric conditions may influence a physician's ability to practice. In addition, physicians as a group are at high risk for chemical dependency that may lead to

impairment. Alcohol is the most frequent offending substance, although all categories of drugs and drug combinations have been reported in association with physician impairment. It is not known whether physicians are more at risk for substance misuse problems than other people in the general population, but the predisposing factors of high stress, fatigue, drug familiarity, and relative ease of access to substances are frequently seen with physicians. Recognizing these factors and risks, Cleveland Clinic assists its professional staff in identifying and receiving treatment for conditions which may lead to impairment, while assuring the highest degree of safety and care for the patients. Cleveland Clinic complies fully with state and federal laws regarding reporting, monitoring and compliance for all members of the professional staff. Staff members undergoing evaluation and therapy for problems leading to impairment will, like all patients, receive dignified, confidential and competent management of their impairment problems.

To insure the safety of patients and employees, and to provide the highest quality of medical care, the Cleveland Clinic is committed to providing a drug-free environment. Cleveland Clinic will not tolerate the unlawful or unauthorized use, manufacture, possession, sale or transfer of illegal or controlled substances, or the abuse of unauthorized use of alcohol, on or off clinic property. Cleveland Clinic [Substance Abuse Policy](#) *applies to non-staff employees and to professional staff*, with certain modifications for physicians because of the greater responsibility in the care of patients. Cleveland Clinic is also bound by the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. All employees, including physicians, must abide by all terms of the Substance Abuse Policy as a condition of their employment. In addition, all employees must report to their supervisor or to the Office of Professional Staff Affairs within five days any conviction under a criminal drug statute for violations occurring in the workplace. Cleveland Clinic recognizes that the misuse of drugs or alcohol may indicate an illness with drug-induced effects on thinking, attitude and behavior. Cleveland Clinic encourages all employees to seek help voluntarily, and also provides education, prevention, treatment re-entry and monitoring to assist employees while insuring a drug-free environment. Help for the staff person and his or her family will include appropriate medical, psychological and chemical dependency care in conformance with the [Substance Abuse Policy](#) and the Staff Benefit Plan.

To facilitate this process, the Board of Governors/Medical Executive Committee (BOG/MEC) authorized the following:

- The Physician Health Committee: Cleveland Clinic will establish and maintain a standing committee of the Office of Professional Staff Affairs for the purpose of dealing with all matters related to physician impairment. This committee will be designated as the Physician Health Committee, and will serve as a clearinghouse for complaints, referral, evaluation, treatment, re-entry, monitoring and compliance. All matters regarding possible or suspected physician impairment may be referred to the Physician Health Committee for review, comment and recommendations. This committee will be a knowledgeable, experienced resource for the handling of such matters. The committee will serve as an ongoing resource for education, evaluation and treatment recommendations; for information about legal requirements of reporting, licensing and other matters; and as a resource for quality control of physician services. The chair of the committee will be appointed by the Chief of Staff, with input from members of the Physician Health Committee. The committee will convene regularly for the purposes of

reviewing and monitoring all cases before it, and for remaining up to date on all aspects of physician impairment. All matters before the Physician Health Committee will be kept strictly confidential and will be dealt with on a need-to know basis.

- Procedure for Screening New Clinical Trainees/Research Fellows: As a condition of employment, the Graduate Medical Education Department will assure that a standardized health screening is completed by Occupational Health for each new clinical trainee/research fellow. Failure to complete the health screening will result in withdrawal of the appointment. A former or resolved drug/alcohol abuse problem will not prevent employment at Cleveland Clinic, but in the event of a prior substance misuse problem, a comprehensive evaluation under direction of Physician Health Committee will be required as part of the pre-employment process. Candidates for residency and residency candidates with a history of substance misuse will be subject to the same regulations requiring pre-employment physical examination, health questionnaires and urine analysis for unauthorized controlled substances. All results will be forwarded to the Director of Graduate Medical Education.
- Policies and Procedures for Existing Staff: As employees of the Foundation, all staff and resident physicians must comply with the Foundation's Substance Abuse Policy. In addition, Cleveland Clinic physicians must also conform to state laws and State Medical Board regulations regarding impairment, reporting, treatment and compliance. Legal requirements also extend to non-substance-involved colleagues and supervisors who become aware of a colleague's impairment. Clinical Trainees and Research Fellows are encouraged to refer themselves through the Department of Graduate Medical Education. The Cleveland Clinic reserves the right to withdraw the offer of training if the substance abuse policy is violated.

View the complete [Substance Abuse Policy](#).

### **Substance Abuse/Chemical Dependency**

Physicians are at an elevated risk of developing substance abuse or chemical dependency issues. Caring for Caregivers (CFC) is available to any clinical trainee/research fellow in need. Clinical trainees/research fellows identified as having a problem with chemical dependency will be connected with treatment commensurate with clinical necessity criteria and professional licensure board requirements.

The Physician Health Committee (PHC), established in 1992, is composed of a multi-disciplinary group of professionals with expertise related to impairment. Individuals with known or suspected impairment will be referred to the PHC for oversight of evaluation, management and follow up, including return to training status.

A PHC referral by the Program Director must be made for known or suspected substance abuse/dependency and/or any related issues of impairment that might impact the trainee's ability to obtain a medical license and/or safely perform their duties.

For further information on the Physician Health Program/Physician Health Committee, please visit the [Caring for Caregivers intranet site](#).

## Substance Abuse – Signs & Symptoms in the Workplace

Signs of substance abuse with potential impact to the workplace include, but are not limited to:

- Increased mistakes and errors in judgment
- Extended breaks and absences from the work area
- Repeated last-minute call-offs
- Red or glassy eyes
- Odor of alcohol on the breath
- Slurred speech
- Unsteady gait
- Drowsiness
- Mood swings
- Difficulty getting along with others
- Problems with memory or concentration
- Frequent runny nose
- Signs of withdrawal (sweating, tremors, nausea, vomiting)

In addition, medical professionals who abuse substances are also at risk for illegal diversion. Drug diversion involves taking medications that are prescribed for a patient or intended for patients. Signs of diversion include prescribing more than clinically indicated and defensiveness when questioned about medications and associated documentation issues.

## Procedure – Suspected Impairment/Reasonable Suspicion/For Cause

Policy applies to On-Duty Staff, Residents, Fellows, Trainees, Nurses and Employees. Of note: because of safety issues, the individual suspected of impairment should never be left alone. If the individual refuses to cooperate with the evaluation process, he or she should be informed this will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

| Observer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Supervisor, Staff/Senior Resident on Service/NOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Caring for Caregivers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Identify concerning behaviors (smell of alcohol, slurred speech, stumbling, sleepiness, glassy eyes, etc.).<br><br>Contact Supervisor, Staff, or Sr. Resident on service/NOM.<br><br>If available, ask another supervisor to concur.<br><br>Suspect Diversion without obvious signs of impairment? Contact Caring for Caregivers and leadership to plan an intervention. | Contact GME, Program Director or Physician Health.<br><br>Contact Caring for Caregivers 24/7, 216-445-6970 or pager #23411<br><br>Contact Occupational Health On-Call Reasonable Suspicion Hotline 216-445-5105 to initiate “For Cause” testing (Note: Inform collector if this is an Anesthesia provider.)<br><br>Collection occurs in pre-determined locations identified by Occupational Health. You will | Assist as needed contacting Occupational Health Reasonable suspicion hotline.<br><br>Assist as needed contacting Cleveland Clinic Police Department 216-444-2222 or Regional Security to arrange for assistance in supervision of suspected impaired caregiver.<br><br>Arrive on-site as necessary. As needed meet and escort Mobile Unit collector to pre-determined collection location (typically the ED) to perform testing |

| Observer | Supervisor, Staff/Senior Resident on Service/NOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Caring for Caregivers                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | <p>be informed of location. No use of restroom in advance. If caregiver attempts to leave, do not prevent them. Call security.</p> <p>If immediate medical attention is needed, contact AMET or RRT for rapid response.</p> <p>Caregiver will be suspended pending investigation and may not return to work. Mandatory referral to Caring for Caregivers; if Caring for Caregivers determines they will not be on-site, instruct caregiver to call 445-6970 for follow up.</p> <p>Consult with Caring for Caregivers/Occupational Health regarding transfer home or facility for evaluation. Caregivers are not permitted to drive. Take cab home, family member, UberHealth or transfer to facility.</p> | <p>Initiate substance abuse intake.</p> <p>If needed – Arrange for transportation to treatment facility.</p> <p>Case manage and follow up.</p> <p>Notify Chair of Physician Health Committee.</p> |

### Anesthesiology Institute: Notice of Substance Abuse Prevention Program

The Anesthesiology Institute is fully committed to patient safety and employee well-being. As part of this commitment, a Substance Abuse Prevention Program (SAPP) has been established. Candidates in the residency and fellowship training programs in the Anesthesiology Institute and the Anesthesiology residency at South Pointe Hospital are required to participate in SAPP. As a condition of employment, all residents/fellows must agree to participate in the SAPP and to abide by the terms of the Substance Abuse Policy. Occupational Health Services or the SAPP Coordinator will perform all testing outlined in the protocol. Occupational Health Service or the SAPP Coordinator will distribute the Anesthesiology Institute Pre-Hire Consent Form and the Policy Statement during the residents/fellows initial Occupational Health Screening (pre-employment testing). An Occupational Health employee or SAPP Coordinator will be the witness to the Pre-Hire Consent Form and this form will be filed in the residents/fellows Occupational Health record. If you have any issues regarding the Policy or Consent, please speak with the Anesthesiology Institute's SAPP/Substance Abuse Prevention Program Director or Coordinator.

The policy is outlined as follows:

- Required drug screen testing (pre-hire testing, random testing, reasonable suspicion for cause testing, return to duty testing)
- Controlled substances that will be tested (pre-hire, random testing, reasonable suspicion for cause testing) will be identified for participants
- Anesthesia chain of custody drug screen collection protocol (collection procedures) will be explained

The components of the program encompass increased education on prevention, recognition and risk of substance abuse and include:

1. Screening of all new residents/fellows potential employees in anesthesia
2. Pre-hire drug screens
3. Random toxicology screens after primary hiring
4. "For cause" drug screens if indicated
5. Return to duty testing following a violation of alcohol or controlled substance use policies if indicated

Expanded Random Drug Testing Program: Cleveland Clinic retains the right to subject you to random toxicology screens after initial hiring. Cleveland Clinic is committed to patient safety and caregiver health. As part of our pledge to deliver safe, reliable care, we recognize that impairment caused by drug abuse adversely impacts caregivers and patients. Beginning January 1, 2016, Cleveland Clinic implemented an Expanded Drug Testing Program (EDT) that requires participation of all caregivers. This was an expansion of the previous random drug testing programs and our commitment to a drug-free workplace. Cleveland Clinic is committed to a testing process that is respectful, fair and non-disruptive to patient care. The intent of this program is to improve early detection and treatment of those who abuse substances and to reduce the incidence of dependency, abuse and misuse of substances that may be readily accessible to healthcare workers. Cleveland Clinic supports the Department of Health and Human Services' recommendation, advocating random drug testing of all healthcare professionals. More information on the [Expanded Drug Testing Program](#).

## Corporate Compliance

Corporate Compliance refers to a system of rules, policies and standards, that an organization establishes to assure that its business activities are conducted in a lawful and ethical manner. In May 1996, the Board of Trustees of Cleveland Clinic adopted "The Cleveland Clinic Corporate Compliance Program" (Program), which is intended to prevent and detect any violations of federal, state or local laws by Clinic employees, affiliates and their members, independent contractors, trustees, directors and officers. Each affiliate of Cleveland Clinic is required either to apply the Program to its operations or to adopt its own program to ensure compliance with applicable laws. By acting in accordance with the Program, Cleveland Clinic is best able to fulfill its mission which is to provide better care of the sick, investigation of their problems and further education of those who serve.

The Program is administered by the Office of Corporate Compliance and Business Ethics is comprised of the following elements: identifies federal, state and local requirements that affect

Cleveland Clinic Operations; develops policies and standards of conduct for employees and those who do business with Cleveland Clinic; provides communication, training and education; conducts monitoring and auditing to prevent and detect non-compliance; provides a mechanism for reporting compliance issues; responds to detected deficiencies and works with institutes, hospitals and departments to correct non-compliance.

The standing committees who maintain oversight of the Program are Cleveland Clinic Corporate Compliance Committee, the Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospital Corporate Compliance Committee and the Research Compliance Committee. All Institutes, hospitals and departments are responsible for the implementation of the Program elements across the Cleveland Clinic enterprise. All employees are to carry out their duties in full compliance with the Program. In the event of a violation, the Program provides a procedure to report, investigate and correct any problems.

As a Cleveland Clinic employee, you are expected to:

- Carry out your job duties with integrity and honesty and use good judgment while performing those duties
- Fully comply with the Cleveland Clinic Code of Conduct
- Learn and understand the laws and regulations applicable to your position and comply with those requirements
- Recognize and report actual or suspected compliance violations

Compliance Expectations for all Cleveland Clinic Employees:

Although the Program can help clinical trainees/research fellows to adopt practices that promote compliance and ethical standards while performing job duties, they are ultimately accountable for their conduct.

Recognizing Compliance Issues: Compliance issues involve conduct that is illegal or unethical. This can involve violations of state or federal law or violation with Cleveland Clinic policies. Here are some examples: accessing another person's medical record when you are not involved in their care or conducting IRB-approved research; disclosing patient information without their written authorization; using another person's password to access confidential information; billing for services that were not performed or medically unnecessary; falsifying medical documentation; copying confidential patient information to a personal computer or mobile device; accepting cash, gifts or bribes from a vendor.

No one has the authority to prevent a clinical trainee/research fellow from reporting a compliance issue. Reports can be submitted confidentially in person, in writing or verbally to: the clinical trainee/research fellow's supervisor or department administrator; the Office of Corporate Compliance at 216-444-1709; the Law Department at 216-448-0200; the Corporate Compliance Reporting Hotline 800-826-9294. Confidential reports may also be submitted electronically by accessing the [Office of Corporate Compliance website](#) and clicking on "Report a Concern" button.

Regardless of which reporting mechanism a clinical trainee/research fellow prefers, all reports will be investigated. No one who submits a report in good faith will be subjected to reprisal, discipline or discrimination for having made a report. For those who desire complete anonymity, it is important that names, dates, times, locations and any other issue-specific facts are provided so that the report may be fully investigated. The investigation and any findings will also remain confidential but the information will be used to identify deficiencies and to take corrective action when appropriate.

If an employee feels that the issue has not been addressed through the formal reporting process as outlined above, the False Claims Act allows citizens with direct and independent knowledge of false claims activities to sue the organization to recover funds on behalf of the government. The False Claims Act prohibits retaliation against an employee if (1) an employee filed a claim against the institution, (2) the employer knew that the employee filed the claim and (3) the employer's actions were a result of the employee's filing of the claim. Prior to seeking resolution outside Cleveland Clinic, employees and others are strongly encouraged to first contact the Chief Integrity Officer at 216-444-6185 or the Law Department at 216-448-0200 to discuss their concerns.

**Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information (PHI):** PHI is individually identifiable health information (including demographic information) that relates to an individual's physical or mental health or the provision of or payment for, health care. PHI is not limited to the electronic medical record and includes paper, photographs, audio, video, x-rays and other types of media. Federal privacy rules provide national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other forms of PHI. Although this section of the Manual discusses a few key standards of the Federal privacy rules, all Cleveland Clinic employees are required to comply with all applicable standards and must complete a designated training program upon hire. According to the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) and the HIPAA Omnibus Rule 2013, PHI may be accessed only by those individuals who, within the scope of their job responsibilities, have a legitimate need for such information for purposes of patient care, research, education, or administrative uses. Any other use or disclosure of PHI may be considered a major infraction of Cleveland Clinic policy and may subject the employee to corrective action and criminal penalties ["Use" of PHI refers to the access, sharing, applying or analyzing of PHI within Cleveland Clinic. "Disclosure" refers to the release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulging in any other manner PHI outside of the Cleveland Clinic.]. Cleveland Clinic systems, such as the electronic medical record, are configured to log access by individual users. These systems are routinely audited for inappropriate access. Employees who violate privacy policies are subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. The employee may also be subject to civil monetary penalties and/or criminal prosecution by the Department of Health & Human Services.

**Breach Notification and Reporting Rules:** Any unauthorized acquisition, access, use or disclosure of patient data may constitute a breach and result in serious consequences for Cleveland Clinic as well as for the responsible employee. Breach notification and reporting rules were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 2009 and modified by the

Omnibus Rule of 2013. These rules mandate notification to individuals, HHS and in some cases the media upon the discovery of a breach of unsecured PHI. A breach of PHI due to lost or missing laptops and portable media; unsecured data transmission (e.g., unencrypted e-mail, FTP); and use of cloud-based software or data sharing Apps without the appropriate contractual agreements in place, are some of the greatest compliance risks we face. Caregivers are required to review and comply with the [Data Classification and Protection Policy](#), the [Encryption Standard Operating Procedure](#), and other Privacy and Information Security policies and procedures.

De-identification of PHI mitigates privacy risks to individuals and thereby supports the secondary use of data for comparative effectiveness studies, policy assessment, life sciences research and other endeavors. The HIPAA Privacy Rule allows PHI to be de-identified using only two methods: (1) Expert determinations; and (2) the Safe Harbor method. In order to be considered “de-identified” under the Safe Harbor method, both of the following criteria must be met: 18 types of identifiers\* of the individual (patient) or of relatives, employers or household members of the individual, are removed and there is no actual knowledge that the remaining information could be used alone or in combination with other information to identify the individual.

View the [Guidance Regarding Methods for De-Identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with HIPAA](#)

**\*Identifiers include:**

1. Names
2. All geographical subdivisions smaller than a state, including street address, city, county, precinct, zip code and their equivalent geo codes, except for the initial three digits of a zip code, if according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census: (1) The geographic unit formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits contains more than 20,000 people; and (2) The initial three digits of a zip code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people is changed to 000.
3. All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death; and all ages over 89 and all elements of dates (including year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older.
4. Phone numbers
5. Fax numbers
6. Electronic mail addresses
7. Social Security numbers
8. Medical record numbers
9. Health plan beneficiary numbers
10. Account numbers
11. Certificate/license numbers
12. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
13. Device identifiers and serial numbers
14. Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
15. Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers
16. Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
17. Full face photographic images and any comparable images
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code (note: this does not mean the unique code assigned by an investigator to code data)

**Additional Safeguards:**

- Do not use personal laptops or devices to store sensitive Cleveland Clinic information
- PHI may not be taken off-premises and must never be downloaded to a portable media device (e.g. flash or thumb drive) unless the device is encrypted in accordance with the Division of Information Technology (ITD) Security policies. This includes but is not limited to: CD's, DVD's, 'thumb' or flash drives, memory sticks, and portable harddrives.
- All portable media used for the storage of any PHI must be provided by the Cleveland Clinic. Refrain from using CD's or DVD's for sensitive data. Encrypted flash drives may be requested through the Department or Institute Administrators.
- It is important to remember that simply deleting PHI files from mobile devices does not ensure that the information cannot be retrieved. Therefore, any media that has ever been used for PHI must be turned into the Cleveland Clinic for proper disposal. Caregiver ITD support team can manage this properly.

- When sending sensitive information by email, be sure to use the word, 'Confidential' in the subject line to trigger secure (encrypted) message delivery.
- Employees are prohibited from sending or automatically forwarding email to their personal email account (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo, etc.). At some point, caregiver work email will likely include PHI. Once the message lands in a caregivers personal email account, copies may have been stored on multiple servers along the way. In short, the PHI could potentially be accessed by unauthorized parties which is a HIPAA violation.
- PHI must never be included when using unapproved cloud-based document sharing Applications (e.g. Google calendars or "Drop Box") unless there are appropriate contractual agreements executed with the cloud-based provider. Contact your administrator or ITD to ensure you are only using CCF-approved data sharing applications. File Transfers (To/From the Internet) use only Cleveland Clinic approved Secure File Transfer Protocols (SFTP) that contain the required encryption technologies (your IT support team can manage this properly).
- Do not take or use photographs of patients without their written consent. Note: Consent is not the same as a HIPAA Authorization. Consent is needed to take the photo/video/audio recording; whereas, Authorization is needed to use or disclose the PHI in the photo/video/audio recording for purposes that are not otherwise permitted or required by HIPAA laws (e.g., other than treatment, payment, and health care operations). If you plan on using a photo in a publication, or to share in a case study situation you will need to obtain the patient's written authorization in addition to the consent.

Research Compliance is part of the Office of Corporate Compliance and a valuable resource for any caregivers involved in research activities. Research Compliance is responsible for facilitating and coordinating training and support of any researcher (enterprise-wide) to promote compliance with laws, regulations and policies governing research in the most efficient and effective manner. We work closely with the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the Law department, the Center for Clinical Research (CCR), Research Finance and others to carry out the Research Compliance Program. Whether a caregiver plans to conduct human subject, animal or laboratory research, we encourage contacting the Corporate Compliance Office (216-444-1709) so that the research can get started in the right direction.

## Code of Conduct

Cleveland Clinic has a tradition of ethical standards in the provision of health care services as well as in the management of its business affairs and has earned the confidence of patients and the respect of the community by the ethical conduct of its practices. The Code of Conduct supplements the mission, vision and values of Cleveland Clinic and applies to all who provide services under the auspices of Cleveland Clinic and its affiliates. The Cleveland Clinic Code of Conduct is part of the overall program of Corporate Compliance. The Code of Conduct also provides standards of conduct to protect and promote integrity and to enhance Cleveland Clinic's ability to achieve its mission and compliance goals.

There are 5 principles in the Code of Conduct: Integrity in Patient Care, Integrity in Billing and

Financial Practices, Integrity in the Workplace, Legal and Regulatory Compliance and Ethical Responsibility. These principles are to be followed by all staff and service providers. All activity by or on behalf of the Cleveland Clinic is to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Cleveland Clinic requires honesty when representing Cleveland Clinic. Employees and other service providers owe a duty of complete loyalty to Cleveland Clinic and may not use their positions to profit personally at the expense of the organization, financially or otherwise. Those affiliated with Cleveland Clinic also have a duty to preserve and protect the assets of the systems and to ensure their efficient use. Cleveland Clinic has a policy of corrective action for those who violate the Code of Conduct, as well as for those who fail to report wrongdoing.

All Cleveland Clinic employees, staff, volunteers and service providers are responsible for reporting any suspected or actual violation of the Code of Conduct or other policy irregularities to a supervisor, the Corporate Compliance Office or the Law Department. For those who wish to remain anonymous, the report may be submitted through the Corporate Compliance reporting line at 1-800-826-9294 or by using the secure email link on the [Corporate Compliance Intranet site](#).

View the complete [Code of Conduct](#).

### **Investigation of Criminal Conduct**

Any incident of employee misconduct, including theft, embezzlement, fraud or other wrongdoing, which could result in criminal prosecution should be reported immediately to the Office of General Counsel (216) 448-0200.

### **Investigation of Alleged Scientific or Academic Misconduct**

It is the desire of the Cleveland Clinic to uphold the highest principles of scientific integrity and to protect against scientific fraud or misconduct. There are specific policies and guidelines that define the procedures to conduct preliminary inquiry and/or definitive investigation in cases of alleged scientific or academic misconduct. Misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting or reporting research. Misconduct does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretation or judgments of data. Inherent in these procedures is the Clinic's recognition that all individuals will be afforded the protection of due process and the avoidance of conflict of interest. It is recognized that allegations concerning misconduct vary from the trivial to the serious and that evidence may also vary from weak to compelling. For these reasons, the exercise of discretion and good judgment by individuals concerned with this process is of paramount importance and these considerations should have a bearing on the degree to which steps herein delineated might be applied. These guidelines comply with the federal regulations issued by the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding misconduct in science.

## Conflicts of Commitment

Purpose: To assure professional and commercial integrity in all matters, Cleveland Clinic United States (CCUS) maintains a program that identifies and addresses conflicts of commitment for the Professional Staff, Residents, Fellows and Employees.

Policy Statement: CCUS recognizes that members of the Professional Staff, Residents, Fellows and Employees periodically serve in external roles and in other activities that may or may not require the use of their professional competence. Service in external activities can be beneficial to Staff, Residents, Fellows and Employees professionally, Cleveland Clinic Enterprise (CCE), its patients, and the public. These activities are generally permissible (subject to compliance with institutional policy) provided that a Staff member's commitment to professional responsibilities at CCE remains primary (or as defined in the conditions of employment) at all times. An overabundance of such external activities may conflict with a Staff member's, Resident's, Fellow's, or Employee's responsibilities at CCE.

View the complete [Conflicts of Commitment Policy](#).

## Conflict of Interest in Business Affairs in General Policy

A Conflict Of Interest may exist when a Target Group Staff member, Resident, Fellow, Employee or a member of his or her Immediate Family or an entity directed or controlled by any of them, has an interest in (including relationships with) a Non-Cleveland Clinic (CC) Entity— whether investment, compensation\*, or otherwise—that could be reasonably perceived as influencing his or her activities in patient care, research, administrative decisions, education or business transactions for our Organization. To help advance our Organization's mission, Target Group Staff members must respect the confidentiality of our Organization's information, act in the best interests of the Organization, and disclose to the IM&COI Program all of their existing and potential personal interests that may result in a Conflict Of Interest. In addition, certain Target Group Employees must also comply with these requirements. These Target Group Employees include managers, residents, fellows, advanced practice providers, pharmacy, law, innovations, ventures, compliance, strategy, supply chain management, construction management, researchers and others as identified from time to time by Human Resources and the Innovation Management and Conflict of Interest Program of the Office of Professional Staff Affairs.

View the complete [Conflict of Interest in Business Affairs in General Policy](#).

## Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Practice

This policy applies to CCUS Professional Staff, advanced practice providers, pharmacists, residents and fellows who provide healthcare to CCUS patients (Healthcare Providers) [See also the [Conflicts of Interest in Research Policy](#)]. A Healthcare Provider may deliver outside lectures or external activities related to their Institutional Responsibilities for which he or she receives Honoraria and/or Consulting Compensation from a Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity, as long as the Healthcare Provider complies with applicable CCUS policies referenced herein and the provisions in the Policy Implementation section found in the [Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Practice Policy](#). Under the policies, when the compensation—which may be direct or indirect, financial or otherwise—is received by an Immediate Family Member or an entity controlled by the Healthcare Provider or Immediate Family Member, it is treated as compensation to the

Healthcare Provider. CCUS Healthcare Providers may also engage in activities related to the commercialization of intellectual property, as long as the Healthcare Provider complies with this and other policies related to conflicts of interest and commercialization of intellectual property. [See also the [Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy](#)] The intent of this policy is to ensure that the Healthcare Provider's primary concern is promoting the best interests of their patients.

Policy Implementation covers:

- Receipt of Gifts by Healthcare Providers from Non-Cleveland Clinic Entities
- Distribution of Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity-Derived Materials Containing Information Directed at Patients as Part of Clinical Practice or Patient Education
- Having Financial Interests in a Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity (stock, stock options, rights to royalties or other commercialization revenues, receiving consulting, speaking or other fees) While Using the Entity's Product in Treating Patients
- Donating to Charities Part or All of Honoraria or Consulting Compensation, Royalties and Other Revenues from Commercialization Received from Non-Cleveland Clinic Entities
- No Royalty Payments or other Commercialization Revenues for use at Cleveland Clinic Enterprise (CCE) of Products Commercialized by CCUS or developed by CCUS Employees
- Patient Referrals to a Physician, Entity or Practice with which there is a Potentially Conflicting Relationship with the Referring Healthcare Provider
- Distribution of Prescription or Over-the-Counter Samples to Patients
- Site Access to CCUS by Pharmaceutical, Diagnostic and Medical Device Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity Representatives
- Ghostwriting

View the complete [Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Practice Policy](#).

### **Conflicts of Interest in Education Policy**

The intent of this policy is to ensure that CCUS Staff, Employees, and Trainees are expected to adhere to the highest ethical standards when they participate in educational endeavors. This policy applies to CCUS Staff, Employees and Trainees who are responsible for educating, and to trainees and other learners who work and/or learn at CCUS as part of their career development.

View the complete [Conflict of Interest in Education Policy](#).

Policy Implementation covers:

- Required Disclosure of Industry Relationships to Trainees by Faculty
- Attending Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity-Sponsored Education and Training Activities
- Receipt of Educational Funds from Non-Cleveland Clinic Entities
- Speaking and Training at Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity-Sponsored Events
- Gifts of Educational Materials from Non-Cleveland Clinic Entities
- Trainees Supervised by Faculty with Non-Cleveland Clinic Entity Relationships
- Trainee Relationships with Non-Cleveland Clinic Entities

### **Conflicts of Interest in Research Policy**

To assure professional and commercial integrity in all matters, our Organization maintains a program that identifies and addresses conflicts of interest in research. This policy applies to Investigators, which means any Target Group member of the Professional Staff, employed physician, other Employee or Trainee participating in research and includes the project director or principal investigator and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research performed under the auspices of our Organization's locations which have adopted this policy, which may include outside collaborators with, or outside consultants to our Target Group's Staff, Employees or Trainees.

View the complete [Conflicts of Interest in Research Policy](#).

### **Florida Informed Consent Policy**

The purpose of the Informed Consent Policy is to provide an environment in which patients have an opportunity to accept or reject medical, surgical and allied health interventions and services in an informed and voluntary manner.

### **Patient Safety**

The mission of Cleveland Clinic health system Caring for life, researching for health and educating those who serve. In pursuit of this mission, Infection Prevention functions to influence, support, and improve the quality of healthcare through the practice and management of infection prevention, education, and the application of epidemiology and research. Infection Prevention is committed to improving patient care, preventing adverse outcomes and promoting patient safety and minimizing occupational hazards for our employees.

View the complete [Infection Prevention Site](#)

The Patient Safety Program includes monitoring compliance with [The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals \(NPSG\)](#).

The Cleveland Clinic supports a Culture of Safety. The elements of our program include:

- Teamwork; acting as a unit
- High Reliability; doing the same thing for our patients every time - reluctance to simplify and pre-occupation with perfection
- Activated Patient and family; enlisting the patient and/or family as part of the healthcare team – listening
- Accountability and Just (Culture); establishing expectations and accountability for expected safety behaviors.
- Encouraging ‘speaking up’ through event reporting - understanding why errors occur
- Learning; full cycle learning from reported events

### **Culture of Safety**

Speak Up: The Cleveland Clinic supports a safe culture by establishing expected safety behaviors which include stopping the line when something doesn’t seem right and reporting actual or potential safety events. Management should support and encourage the caregiver to report and share lessons about safety events so others are able to learn.

Cleveland Clinic Enterprise Quality supports several committees, projects and resources providing opportunities for clinical trainees to become involved in patient safety. To receive additional information on Cleveland Clinic Patient Safety, National Patient Safety Goals or the Cleveland Clinic Enterprise Quality, please refer to the [Safety, Quality, and Patient Experience](#)

### **Safety Event Reporting (SERS)**

Reporting a safety event when it occurs provides an opportunity to identify and learn about system failures, hazards and risks. It is critical to note that safety events are not limited to those events that cause a patient harm. Often we have the most to learn from near-miss events and no harm events. Learning about these events can help safeguard our patients from future harm events. The safety event can provide information as to where processes are breaking down and therefore reduce the likelihood of recurrence. Ultimately this review and analysis process will lead to improvements in the quality of patient care.

[Florida SERS Downtime Information- Standard Operating Procedure](#)

Any Cleveland Clinic hospital or facility caregiver, who is involved in, observes or otherwise becomes aware of a safety event, is responsible for promptly reporting the event in the electronic [Safety Event Reporting System](#) (SERS). Reports may be submitted in an identifiable or anonymous manner. Events should be reported as soon as possible within 24-hours of occurrence. The information in the report or generated from the event reporting system is confidential and privileged as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 2305.25(D), 2305.252, and 2305.253. If a Needlestick or Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure occurs the caregiver must call the 24/7 BBPE HOTLINE at 216-445-0742 and they will speak directly with a nursing caregiver.

Refer to the [SERS web site](#) page for additional information.

### **Restraint and/or Seclusion Use Policy**

All patients have the right to be free from restraint or seclusion of any form. The decision to use restraints or seclusion is not driven by diagnosis but by a comprehensive individual patient assessment. Restraints and/or seclusion are used temporarily to prevent the risk of therapy disruption, and/or to ensure the immediate physical safety of the patient, a staff member, or others.

### **Restraint and/or Seclusion Use Procedure for Violent/Self-Destructive Behavior (VSD)**

To support the Florida Restraint and/or Seclusion Policy, this procedure specifies the roles, responsibilities and accountability of those involved in the assessment, documentation, ordering, monitoring, and care of patients in restraint or seclusion for Violent/Self Destructive behavior. This procedure does not apply for use of restraints for management of the following:

- Prisoners restrained with a Law Enforcement Restraint
- Restrictive devices during anesthesia induction, surgery or immediate recovery period. These devices are applied as a standard practice to ensure patient safety.

### **Restraint Use Procedure for Non-Violent/Non-Self-Destructive Behavior (NVNSD)**

To support the Florida Restraint and/or Seclusion Policy, this procedure specifies the roles, responsibilities and accountability of those involved in the assessment, documentation, ordering, monitoring, and care of patients in restraint for Non-Violent/Non Self-Destructive behavior. This procedure does not apply for use of restraints for management of the following:

- Medical immobilization for medical, dental, diagnostic, or surgical procedure and the related immediate post procedure processes

- Prisoners restrained with a Law Enforcement Restraint
- Restrictive devices during anesthesia induction, surgery or immediate recovery period. These devices are applied as a standard practice to ensure patient safety.

## HIPAA

HIPAA rules govern the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI). PHI is individually identifiable health information (including demographic information) that relates to an individual's physical or mental health or the provision of or payment for health care. PHI is not limited to the electronic medical record and includes paper, photographs, audio, video, x-rays and other types of media. All members of the Cleveland Clinic workforce are required to complete a designated training program on or around their start date. In addition, employees must review the HIPAA Policies located in the PPM. When you reach the PPM site (only accessible when on the Cleveland Clinic network), click on the + sign next to Privacy & Security on the left side of the screen. Then select the HIPAA Privacy folder and review the policies listed.

## OSHA

Federal law mandates that all clinical trainees/research fellows receive annual training regarding the Bloodborne Pathogen Standards. This is accomplished with an on-line course in MyLearning.

## Infection Prevention

Clinical Trainees/research fellows at the Cleveland Clinic will follow all infection prevention policies and procedures available on the intranet in the Policy and Procedure Manager (PPM) and the [Infection Prevention site](#). Hand hygiene and Standard Precautions are the cornerstones of infection prevention. Performing hand hygiene before and after patient contact is regarded as a professional responsibility. Sinks and alcohol-based hand rubs are readily available in all patient care locations. To ensure Cleveland Clinic is complying with Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals, hand hygiene is monitored among employees.

Standard Precautions includes the use of personal protective equipment to prevent exposure to potentially infectious material, use of cough etiquette, masking for lumbar punctures and following safe injection practices (one needle, one syringe, one time, for one patient). Transmission-based Precautions includes the use of Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions for certain defined conditions or pathogens. Clinicians are expected to follow the directions posted on the patient's door. In addition, clinicians will follow recommended infection prevention bundles for the prevention of central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) and surgical site infections (SSIs). Bundles include

daily assessment for need and prompt removal of indwelling devices as soon as clinically feasible.

Healthcare workers will wash hands with soap and water:

- When hands are dirty or visibly soiled
- After removing gloves if there has been any contact with blood or other potentially infectious material
- After using the restroom
- Before eating
- When caring for patients with *Clostridium difficile*, *Hepatitis A*, or *Norovirus* infections
- After suspected or proven exposure to *Bacillus anthracis*

Hand hygiene using soap and water (hand washing):

- Wet hands with water
- Apply enough soap to generate a lather
- Rub hands together, covering all surfaces of the hands and fingers, for at least 15 seconds
- Rinse hands with water
- Dry hands thoroughly with a single use towel
- Use towel to turn off faucet

Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is preferred over soap and water for hand hygiene when hands are not visibly soiled. Hand hygiene with ABHR or soap and water will be performed:

- Before and after direct contact with patients and their immediate environment if hands are not visibly soiled and there has been no contact with blood or other potentially infectious material
- Before inserting indwelling catheters, peripheral vascular catheters, or other invasive devices that do not require a surgical scrub
- When going from a dirty procedure to a clean procedure on the same patient
- Before donning and after removing gloves if there has been no contact with blood or other potentially infectious material (the use of gloves does not eliminate the need to perform hand hygiene)

## **Influenza Vaccination**

The Influenza Immunization Policy covers all Cleveland Clinic employees. The vaccination program is coordinated through Occupational Health and commences at the beginning of the influenza season. Immunizations will be offered throughout the influenza season. Occupational Health will provide influenza vaccinations to Cleveland Clinic employees. All employees must participate in the annual Cleveland Clinic Flu Vaccine Program by receiving the annual influenza vaccine, or receiving a religious or medical exemption. Cleveland Clinic employees who are vaccinated through services other than Cleveland Clinic Occupational Health (i.e. private physician office, public clinics) must provide documentation from the source of immunization as proof to Occupational Health. A final date to comply with the annual Cleveland Clinic Flu Vaccine Program will be determined annually.

View the complete [Influenza Immunization Policy](#) and [Standing Order: Employee Influenza Vaccination Program](#).

## **Florida Medication and Allergy Reconciliation Policy**

The purpose of reconciliation is to ensure the safe prescribing and administration of medications to patients across the health system by defining the circumstances under which allergy and medication reconciliation are required. Medication reconciliation is the process of comparing a patient's medication list to all of the medications that the patient has been taking and updating the medications to provide an accurate and current list at the end of this encounter. This reconciliation is done to avoid medication errors such as omissions, duplications, dosing errors, or drug interactions. It should be done at every admission and at every transition of care in which new medications are ordered or existing orders are rewritten.

## **Florida Universal Protocol and Safety Checklist Policy**

The Universal Protocol (UP)/Safety Checklist process applies to all surgical and nonsurgical invasive procedures in all inpatient and outpatient settings, to include bedside procedures. Universal Protocol/Safety Checklist does not apply in an emergency situation when the risk of performing the Universal Protocol/Safety Checklist outweighs the benefit.

This policy addresses the following:

- Pre-procedure verification or Sign-in.
- Marking of the procedure site.
- Time-out.
- Post procedure Sign-out.
- Documentation.

For more information review the complete Florida Universal Protocol and Safety Checklist Policy), or view the [Safety, Quality, and Patient Experience](#)

### **Florida Verbal Orders Policy**

Verbal orders should only be used to meet the care needs of the patient when it is impossible or impractical for the ordering practitioner to write the order or enter it into the EMR (electronic medical record) without delaying treatment (e.g. in perioperative and periprocedural areas). This policy outlines the information to be communicated when verbal orders are given by a Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) to the appropriate accepting personnel. Verbal orders are verified by a read back process.

### **Confidentiality Policy**

All employees of Cleveland Clinic may have access to other confidential information concerning budgets, strategic business plans, patients, or other employees. This information may be in the form of verbal, written, and/or computerized data. The protection of this confidential information is a critical responsibility of each employee or individual. Unauthorized acquisition, release, disclosure and and/or discussion of any confidential information related to Cleveland Clinic business, patients, current and past employees, job applicants and computerized data is strictly prohibited by this policy and all employees and other individuals, regardless of position or title will be subject to corrective action up to and including discharge, or other appropriate action.

View the complete [Confidentiality Policy](#).

### **Identity Theft Prevention and Mitigation Standard Operating Procedure**

It is the policy of the Cleveland Clinic to protect confidential patient information in accordance with state and federal regulations and Cleveland clinic policies. If patient information is compromised through identity theft or fraud (i.e. use of someone else's name, social security number, insurance card/benefits, credit card, etc.) this policy and procedure for managing the situation and account will be adhered to consistently throughout the health system.

As a Cleveland Clinic employee, please uphold this policy by notifying your supervisor if you observe any of the following situation or “Red Flags”:

- Alerts, notification or warnings from a credit agency
- Suspicious-looking documents (i.e. altered)
- Suspicious activity on an account (i.e. change of address)
- Notice from patient, victim of identity theft or fraud, law enforcement, etc.
- Medical treatment inconsistent with physical exam

## Release of Information on Patients

The patient's condition, diagnosis and prognosis are to be discussed only with the patient, the patient's family and others who are involved with the patient's care under the direction of the staff doctor in charge, unless the patient objects.

- Requests for copies of patient information must be directed to Health Information Management and require authorization from the patient.
  - Links are available on the intranet and public web page for a paper or an electronic authorization.
  - Records can also be requested electronically from within MyChart for:
    - Release to MyChart
    - Release to another individual or requester
- To Reporters: All inquiries from newspaper and television reporters regarding accidents, rumors, professional standing of doctors and nurses or anything that involves the Clinic shall be referred to the Director of Media Relations.
- To Lawyers: All inquiries from lawyers, adjustors and others regarding accidents and care and treatment of patients should be referred to the Office of General Counsel and the staff physician in charge. No information may be released without written authorization from the patient.
- To Police: All inquiries should be referred to the Director of Protective Services.
- To the Public: Information that can be given over the telephone regarding the condition of patients is recorded at the hospital information desk. Inquiries involving the condition of patients, which cannot be answered on the basis of such daily reports, are referred to the staff physician or surgeon. If he or she cannot be located, the inquiry should be referred to the senior resident.

## Informed Consent Policy

The purpose of the Informed Consent Policy is to provide an environment in which patients have an opportunity to accept or reject medical, surgical and allied health interventions and services in an informed and voluntary manner.

## Human Subject Research

All research involving human subjects requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval prior to implementation. Research involving human subjects is defined as a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge or any experiment that involves a test article other than the use of a marketed product in the course of medical practice.

The Cleveland Clinic is **engaged in human research** when its employees obtain: (1) data about subjects through interaction for research purposes; (2) data about subjects through intervention for research purposes; (3) individually identifiable private information about subjects for research or purposes; or (4) informed consent of subjects to take part in the research. Common types of human research involve retrospective chart reviews, surveys,

questionnaires, innovative surgical procedures, drug and device trials, registries and outcome research. Depending upon the type of research, it will either be reviewed by the convened IRB, under expedited review by a member of the IRB, or by a member of the IRB (or designee) to make a determination that it is exempt human subject research. Only the IRB can make a determination that research is exempt under the categories specified in IRB policy. You should contact the IRB office for assistance if you have questions whether an activity is considered human research requiring IRB approval. Some research may involve the recruitment of employees (staff, fellows, residents, students) as research volunteers and require additional safeguards. If you have any concerns regarding a request for you to participate as a research subject, please contact the IRB, the Director of Graduate Medical Education or the Chairman of the Education Institute.

Human Research Training Requirements: Investigators, Co-Investigators, Study Coordinators and other key research support personnel involved with study design, recruitment, consenting, data collection or data analysis are required to complete the on-line CITI course (Collaborative IRB Training Initiative) at [www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org) and the HIPAA in Human Subject Research module in MyLearning. Completion of the Investigator Human Subject Research Education Course is also required for all Staff, Residents, Fellows and Scientists participating as PI or Co-Investigators in human research. Courses are offered quarterly and registration is completed through MyLearning. An on-line review course is required every 3 years after completing the live training. View [Center for Clinical Research](#).

Although clinical trainees and research fellows may not be immediately involved in human research, we strongly encourage all trainees to take these courses to gain special knowledge and use of reference material relating to the conduct of clinical research. The Cleveland Clinic main campus IRB is responsible for the review of all human subject research conducted in whole or in part on premises owned or operated by CCF, regardless of who is conducting the research and includes the main campus, the family health and surgery centers, Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals, the Children's Hospital Shaker Campus and other components as listed on our Federal wide Assurance agreement. In order to ensure that there is enough time to complete a research project, it is extremely important to begin the development of the protocol and submission with your mentor as soon as possible. Volumes impact turnaround time at the IRB.

You can contact the CCF IRB at 216-444-2924 or email at [IRB@ccf.org](mailto:IRB@ccf.org)

All proposals requesting funding from private foundations, health associations, corporations, or federal, state, and local governments require input and sign-off from the Institute Research Administrator to ensure compliance with institutional policies governing the conduct of sponsored research (regulatory, legal and financial).

#### ClinicalTrials.gov Registration and Reporting:

ClinicalTrials.gov is a registry and results database of publicly and privately supported clinical studies of human participants conducted around the world that is designed, in part, to promote transparency of clinical research to trial participants and the public. The responsible party (sponsor/sponsor investigator) is required to register, update, and report results for applicable

clinical trials at specific time periods consistent with the regulation and outlined in Institutional policy. If the Responsible Party is leaving Cleveland Clinic, he or she must update the ClinicalTrial.gov record prior to their departure. If the study remains open, and/or results are not yet submitted, a new Owner must be identified, and accept the study.

Noncompliance can result in the labeling of the study as non-compliant on ClinicalTrials.gov, loss of grant funding if federally funded, and Civil monetary penalties of up to \$10,000/day.

Contact your Institute's ClinicalTrials.gov Administrator with questions or for assistance.

## **Safety & Security**

The personal safety and health of each employee, patient and visitor is a primary importance to Cleveland Clinic. It is our policy to maintain a safety program conforming to all applicable local, state and federal safety and health standards, fire codes and environmental regulations. Since these regulations only define minimum requirements, it is the position of Cleveland Clinic that every effort will be made to exceed them whenever practical. If a clinical trainee/research fellow is working late and feel the need to be escorted safely to their assigned parking location, contact the Cleveland Clinic Weston Protective Services at 954-659-5025 for assistance. For all caregiver safety, "blue light emergency intercoms" blanket the Cleveland Clinic Weston campus. The blue lights enable caregivers to easily find them. Push the button once to be connected directly to the Cleveland Clinic Protective Services Department and it will alert them to the caregiver's location for an immediate response. Uses include reporting a crime, suspicious persons, property lost, found or stolen and car trouble such as a dead battery (there is free "jump start" assistance available) or keys locked in the caregiver's car.

## **Hazardous Chemical Identification and Communication Policy**

Cleveland Clinic caregivers shall be informed about the hazardous chemicals used in the workplace. This shall be accomplished by means of comprehensive hazard communication programs, which include chemical lists, container labeling (and other forms of warning), safety data sheets (SDS), and employee information and training. For the safety of our caregivers, the Cleveland Clinic maintains compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (29CFR 1910.1200).

View the complete [Hazardous Chemical Identification and Communication Policy](#).

## **Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection**

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is an epidemic of major proportion with serious medical, social and economic consequences. Physicians must be familiar with the clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV infection (AIDS and AIDS-related conditions) as well as the indications for his limitations of various laboratory diagnostic tests that are currently available.

If an employee sustains a significant exposure (needle stick, sharp injury or a mucous membrane splash of patient blood or other body fluids), that employee should

1. Stop working

2. Irrigate exposed skin or mucous membrane, if applicable
3. IMMEDIATELY Call Needle Stick Line: 216-445-0742, Cleveland Clinic Occupational Health
4. File a Safety Event Reporting System (SERS) form with their supervisor

Employees with exposure to source patients who are HIV-positive will be recommended for follow-up HIV testing and will be referred to an Infectious Disease Physician for evaluation for antiviral medication as deemed necessary. Such employees should be advised to report and seek medical evaluation for any active illness that occurs during the follow-up period. For especially the first 6-12 weeks after exposure, when most exposed persons would be expected to seroconvert, the Public Health Services recommends the following measures for preventing transmission of HIV: avoiding pregnancy and breastfeeding (if possible), avoiding blood, semen or organ donation, refraining from sharing needles and abstaining from sexual intercourse or using barrier measures to prevent HIV transmission during sexual intercourse.

**Confidentiality:** All Cleveland Clinic employees must preserve the confidential nature of HIV testing and results. Breach of confidentiality is grounds for dismissal.

**Disclosure of Information:** Copies of patient records, which contain HIV-related information, may be released to specified individuals, upon receipt of a written and valid authorization. HIV-related information may be released to the following without patient authorization; a health care facility or provider that procures, processes, distributes or uses a human body part from a deceased individual which is donated for a purpose; the appropriate governmental health department; a health care provider who treats the individual; health care provider, EMS worker, or peace officer who has sustained a significant exposure to a patient. If the patient receives post-exposure testing for HIV, his or her identity may not be revealed.

## **Management of Occupational Exposures**

Avoiding occupational blood exposures is the primary way to prevent transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in health-care settings (1). However, hepatitis B immunization and postexposure management are integral components of a complete program to prevent infection following bloodborne pathogen exposure and are important elements of workplace safety (2).

## **Hepatitis B Infection**

If a source patient is identified as Hepatitis B surface antigen positive it is recommended that the Health Care Worker have follow up testing. This should occur at the time of the exposure to establish baseline results. This is followed by testing at 6 weeks, 3 months and 6 months. If seroconversion should occur, the Health Care Worker will be referred immediately to Hepatology for evaluation and treatment.

The CDC recommends the following based on knowledge of the source patient's Hepatitis B status as well as the health care workers Hepatitis B status:

### **Trainee DEA Registration Number Policy**

**Purpose:** It is the policy of the Cleveland Clinic that every medical trainee who administers, prescribes, dispenses, or distributes controlled substances must be registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

**Policy Statement:** Trainees are expected to update and maintain required documentation relating to DEA registration and to continue an active registration as long as the need to administer, prescribe, dispense, or distribute controlled substances is necessary in their training role. Refer to the [Licensure/Certification/Clinical Competency Policy](#).

Trainees who practice in specialty areas that do not require the administration, prescription, dispensing, or distribution of controlled substances are not required to obtain a DEA Registration Number. Consult Graduate Medical Education Department (GME) regarding details.

Trainees whose DEA registration does not include all schedules required by their training program must inform the GME and their training program of any and all limitations/exceptions/exclusions regarding their DEA registration before their training start date and/or orientation date.

Trainees who plan to move to Ohio from another state or move their place of practice within the state must request an update/modification of their DEA Registration Number to reflect the state of Ohio.

Trainees who are appointed as limited clinical practitioners or moonlighters through the Office of Professional Staff Affairs are required to obtain a Personal DEA Registration Number to practice in said capacity.

#### Trainees with a Personal DEA Registration Number

GME will verify status of trainees' Personal DEA Registration Numbers.

**Onboarding –** Trainees who enter training with a Personal DEA Registration Number must provide GME with documentation (e.g., wallet card) of said number including issue and expiration dates. GME will verify the information using primary source verification via the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Agency, Diversion Control Division website and upload supporting documentation while recording the Registration Number and expiration date in the trainees' MedHub records.

**Maintenance –** Personal DEA Registration Numbers stored in MedHub are automatically searched weekly for registration changes, schedule changes, and expirations. GME will monitor these reports regarding said changes and update records accordingly. GME will notify trainees prior to the expiration date of their Personal DEA Registration Number and recommend

appropriate steps to ensure uninterrupted of DEA registration. Documentation of changes is accomplished by the GME uploading an online verification of current Personal DEA Registration Number status using data provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division data files. This website is updated weekly and is an acceptable source of verification by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JC) and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Trainees whose instate Personal DEA Registration Numbers lapse/expire while in training have the option to renew their personal registration with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division, or obtain the Institutional DEA Registration Number provided that the expired personal registration was in good standing. Additionally, the trainee must provide written details that the failure to renew in a timely manner with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division was not due to any current or pending corrective action on the part of the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division or the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy. Citing adequate evidence to the above and presenting the documented reasoning regarding the failure to renew an instate Personal DEA Registration Number with the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Diversion Control Division, the Main Campus Pharmacy would be able to issue the Institutional DEA Registration Number.

#### Trainees without a Personal DEA Registration Number

A suffix to be used with the Institutional DEA Registration Number is issued to Main Campus trainees without Personal DEA Registration Numbers by the institute for the duration of a given trainee's appointment. Reference Issuing Temporary DEA Number to Authorized Physicians Policy for more information regarding this policy. Trainees at Fairview Hospital and South Pointe Hospital have Institutional DEA Registration Numbers issued and verified by those respective institutions.

It shall be the responsibility of the GME to maintain and record as part of trainees' personnel records the assigned DEA Registration Number along with the issue and expiration dates when available.

#### Transition from Institutional DEA Registration Number to Personal DEA Registration Number while in training

All trainees who intend to procure a Personal DEA Registration Number when they have been issued and are currently using an Institutional DEA Registration Number are required under this policy to notify GME when applying for a Personal DEA Registration Number. Trainees who acquire a Personal DEA Registration Number must provide GME with documentation (e.g., wallet card) of said number including issue and expiration dates. GME will verify the trainee's Personal DEA Registration Number and inform trainee, training program leadership, and appropriate Pharmacy regarding the rescinding of the Institutional DEA Registration Number. Under no circumstances shall any trainee whether knowingly or unknowingly administer or prescribe controlled substances under an Institutional DEA Registration Number when assigned a Personal DEA Registration Number. Doing so violates applicable codes and laws of the State of Ohio.

### Trainees Visiting from another Institution with an Institutional or Personal DEA Registration Number

Trainees visiting from an outside institution are not eligible for an Institutional DEA Registration Number from Cleveland Clinic unless a special agreement is in place. Trainees shall provide either their Institutional DEA Registration Number from their home institution or Personal DEA Registration Number during the onboarding process. This information will be stored in MedHub and made available for programs to request electronic medical record access.

### **Clinical Trainee Life Support Certification Policy**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to define and standardize life support training requirements for all clinical trainees in Cleveland Clinic training programs under the sponsorship of the Main Campus Graduate Medical Education department.

**Policy Statement:** All clinical trainees who are involved in direct patient care are required to obtain and maintain active applicable certifications throughout their training to ensure they are capable of assessing the need for and initiating cardiopulmonary resuscitation according to established standards by the American Heart Association or equivalent organizations.

All clinical trainees are either required to enter their training program already in possession of required certification or obtain it within 45 days of beginning employment with the Cleveland Clinic. Recertification must be obtained prior to the expiration date of certificates. The program is responsible to make arrangements for clinical trainees to attend new or recertification course(s).

This policy outlines the following certifications and the acceptable course curricula:

- a. **ACLS** – American Heart Association-accredited course (BLS is incorporated)
- b. **BLS** – American Heart Association-accredited course
- c. **NRP** – American Academy of Pediatrics-accredited course
- d. **PALS** – American Heart Association-accredited course (BLS is incorporated)

Individual specialties may require additional certification(s) not outlined in this policy.

**Documentation** – Clinical trainees are expected to obtain certification(s) based on data in the appendix (grid of programs/requirements). The GMEC will review the attached grid bi-annually to ensure that required certifications meet institutional requirements. GME will monitor certification status on an ongoing basis and notify clinical trainees of upcoming expiration. Clinical trainees are required to provide copies of acceptable forms of documentation (ex. wallet card) for storage in MedHub.

## ACGME Policies

### Institutional Clinical Experience and Education Work Hour Policy

Purpose: Providing clinical trainees with adequate academic and clinical education requires careful planning with specific considerations of the impact of training requirements and clinical and educational work hours on patient safety and the trainees' well-being. Didactic and clinical education must have priority in the allotment of the trainees' time and energy. The training program and its sponsoring department must establish an environment that is optimal for the trainees' education and for safe patient care, while ensuring that undue stress and fatigue among trainees is avoided. The structuring of clinical and educational work hours and on-call schedules must focus on the needs of the patient, continuity of care and the educational needs of the trainee while not being excessive.

Program Specific Work Hour Policy: Each training program must have a written policy and procedure consistent with the Institutional and program-specific RC requirements for clinical trainee clinical experience and educational work hours. The policy must regularly be distributed to the trainees and faculty within their program and reviewed annually to assure accuracy.

- Each program must ensure that the goals and objectives of the program are not compromised by excessive reliance on clinical trainees to fulfill service obligations
- Clinical experience and educational work hours must reflect the fact that responsibilities for continuing patient care are not automatically discharged at specific times
- Programs must mandate that clinical trainees are provided with appropriate senior and/or faculty back-up support at all times

Averaging Clinical and Educational Work Hours: All must occur by rotation (4 week block, month or the period of the rotation if shorter than 4 weeks). When rotations are shorter than 4 weeks, averaging must be done over these shorter rotations. This avoids heavy and light assignments being combined to achieve compliance. "Rolling" averages are not permitted. Programs that use a rotation period that is greater than 4 weeks will be provided with 4 week rotation review periods (the system will overlap the last 2 weeks of a rotation with the first 2 weeks of the next rotation; the single work period and shift violations will not double count, but the system will take into consideration the 80hr maximum and the 1 day off in 7 violations over the overlapping time period). Programs that use a rotation period that is less than 4 weeks will be provided with the Cleveland Clinic module dates review periods. If a clinical trainee takes vacation or other leave, those vacation or leave days are omitted from the numerator and the denominator when calculating clinical and educational work hours and days off. For example, if a clinical trainee is on vacation for one week, the hours will be averaged over the remaining 3 weeks or the remainder of the rotation if shorter than 4 weeks.

### Clinical Experience and Educational Work Hours Requirements

Maximum Hours of Clinical and Educational Work per Week: Clinical and educational work hours must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period/rotation, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home, and all moonlighting.

Clinical and Educational Work Hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the program. The following must be included when reporting hours:

- Patient care (both inpatient and outpatient)
- Administrative duties related to patient care
- The provision for transfer of patient care
- Time spent in-house during call activities
- In-hospital hours when on the phone
- Scheduled academic activities such as conferences
- Required research (research hours or any combination of research/patient care activities)
- Hours spent on activities that are required by the accreditation standards, such as membership on a hospital committee, or that are accepted practice in programs, such as clinical trainees' participation in interviewing program candidates
- Time spent at regional/national conferences/meetings when attendance at the meeting is required by the program, or when the clinical trainee is acting as a representative of the program (i.e. presenting a paper or poster). Only actual meeting time counts; travel and non-conference time is excluded.
- Any tasks related to performance of duties, even if performed at home, count toward the 80-hour limit

The following should not be included when reporting hours:

- Reading and study time spent away from the work site
- Academic preparation time, such as time spent preparing for presentations or journal clubs

Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education:

1. Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods
  - There may be circumstances when residents choose to stay to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical experience and education. This must occur within the context of the 80-hour and the 1 day off in 7 requirements.
2. Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call
3. Residents must be scheduled for a minimum of 1 day in 7 free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over 4 weeks/rotation).
  - One (1) day is defined as one continuous 24-hour period free from all clinical, educational, and administrative activities
  - At-home call cannot be assigned on these free days
  - It is not permissible to have the day off regularly or frequently scheduled on a clinical trainee's post-call day
  - Because at-home call does not require a rest period, the day after at-home call may be used as a day off, but extended or prolonged at-home call is not permitted as it would be in violation of the 1 day off in 7 requirement.

**Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length:** Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments. Programs must encourage clinical trainees to use alertness management strategies in the context of patient care responsibilities.

1. Clinical trainees may be allowed to remain on-site in order to accomplish transition in care or to attend educational conferences; however, this period of time must be no longer than an additional four hours. During this four-hour period, clinical trainees must not be permitted to participate in the care of new patients in any setting, must not be assigned to outpatient clinics including continuity clinics, and must not be assigned to participate in a new procedure.
2. Clinical trainees must not be assigned additional clinical responsibilities after 24 hours of continuous in-house work.
  - a) Additional clinical responsibilities that clinical trainees must not be assigned to include: the care of new patients in any clinical setting; continuity or outpatient clinics; participation in new procedures including elective scheduled surgery.
3. Clinical trainees may be allowed to remain on site for patient safety or clinical trainee education; however, this period of time must be no longer than an additional four hours.
4. In unusual circumstances, clinical trainees, on their own initiative, may remain beyond their scheduled period of work to continue to provide care to a single patient. Justifications for such extensions of work are limited to reasons of required continuity for a severely ill or unstable patient, academic importance of the events transpiring, or humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family.
  - a) Under those circumstances, the clinical trainee must appropriately hand over the care of all other patients to the team responsible for their continuing care and document the reasons for remaining to care for the patient in question and submit that documentation in every circumstance in MedHub.
  - b) The Program Director must review each submission of additional service, and track both individual clinical trainee and program-wide episodes of additional work.
  - c) These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.

**Maximum In-House On-Call Frequency:** Residents must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every third night (when averaged over a four-week period).

**Maximum At-Home Call Frequency:** The Program Director must monitor the demands of at-home call in their programs and make scheduling adjustments as necessary to mitigate excessive service demands and/or fatigue.

- Time spent on patient care activities by residents on at-home call must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly limit. The frequency of at-home call is not subject to the every-third-night limitation, but must satisfy the requirement for one day in seven free of clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks/rotation.
- At-home call must not be so frequent or taxing as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time for each resident

- Residents are permitted to return to the hospital while on at-home call to provide direct care for new or established patients. These hours of inpatient patient care must be included in the 80-hour maximum weekly limit

**In-House Night Float:** Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and 1 day off in 7 requirements. The maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float, and maximum number of months of night float per year may be further specified by the Review Committee.

**Moonlighting:** Because graduate medical education is a full-time endeavor, the Program Director must ensure that moonlighting does not interfere with the ability of the clinical trainee to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program. The Program Director must comply with Cleveland Clinic's Florida's Moonlighting Policy, as well as ACGME requirements and/or federal regulations.

- Moonlighting is voluntary: clinical trainees must not be required to engage in moonlighting
- All clinical trainees who moonlight must be compensated for their time and hold a current permanent license issued by the Florida
- PGY 1 trainees are not permitted to moonlight
- Clinical trainees on clinical J-1 exchange visitor visas are NOT permitted to engage in independent patient care activities due to federal regulations that restrict unsupervised medical practice
- Time spent moonlighting (internal and external) must be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit

### Alertness Management

In accordance with the ACGME Common Program Requirements, all programs must educate their faculty and trainees in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes, including recognizing signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation. All new clinical trainees are required to complete the online MyLearning course entitled "Sleepiness and Fatigue in Medical Professionals" within the first 90-days of training. Annually, all clinical trainees are required to complete the refresher course of "Sleepiness and Fatigue in Medical Professionals."

Programs must provide a form of transportation for clinical trainees who may be too fatigued to safely return home; an acceptable method would be reimbursement or vouchers for a taxi or other means of public transportation. Each program must also have their own policies and procedures in place that ensure coverage of patient care in the event that a resident may be unable to perform their patient care responsibilities. These policies must be implemented without fear of negative consequences for the resident who is unable to provide the clinical work. CC Weston provides private sleeping rooms in the resident lounge located in WNH1-286. All residents and fellows have 24/7 access to this area with their ID badge to swipe for access.

**Clinical Trainee Responsibilities Relating to Recording Clinical Experience and Educational Work Hours:** Clinical trainees MUST complete a weekly timesheet in MedHub, the institutional residency management system, by recording their in and out times of each day worked. They must also tag the time entered to an activity by choosing from the following: Standard Work Period, Internal Moonlighting, External Moonlighting, Home Call (called in) or Work from Home. After completing each weekly timesheet, the trainees must select the 'Submit Completed Work

Hours' button to confirm recorded hours. The trainee always has access to the current week and prior week to record their work hours. Recording of work hours in MedHub is required for all clinical trainees; 100% compliance is expected. Failure to do so is looked upon as unprofessional behavior and should be duly addressed by the Program Director; repeat offenses/non-compliance with reporting or breaking of clinical experience and educational hour rules may result in disciplinary action.

Activity flagged by MedHub as a violation on a specific timesheet is an actual violation if the trainee violated the single work period (8-hour break, 24+4 hours max), but only a "potential violation" regarding the 80-hour rule and 1-day-off-in-7, as it is not averaged over a four-week period. Regardless if the violation is actual or potential, MedHub will ask the trainee to document a mitigating reason. This allows both the trainee and the program to identify and correct potential work hour problems before they actually occur.

**Program Oversight of Clinical Trainees Clinical Experience and Educational Work Hours:** Clinical experience and educational work hours (including moonlighting) must be monitored at the program level with a frequency sufficient to ensure an appropriate balance between education and service and compliance with ACGME requirements. Programs must have a process to ensure continuity of patient care in the event that a clinical trainee may be unable to perform his or her patient care duties.

At the conclusion of each rotation the Program Director will have access to the Work Hours Review Periods section in MedHub. This will provide the Program Director with any clinical experience and educational work hour's violations, details of the violation and the rationale provided by the clinical trainee when logging their mitigating reason. The Program Director is responsible for reviewing each violation, providing a comment and using that information when adjudicating/justifying their work hour violations. Every quarter, the program is responsible for providing the Institute Education Committee with the number of adjudicated and justifiable work hour violations incurred by their trainees.

#### Review of Clinical Experience and Educational Work Hours:

The GMEC reviews a compliance summary of Work Hours Review for each accredited program on a quarterly basis. The Institute Education Committee will complete an Excel sheet provided by the GME department that contains the work hour violations as determined by MedHub and the program submitted adjudicated/justifiable work hour violations. Each Institute Education Committee data will be placed on a GMEC agenda for discussion.

**GMEC Oversight of Clinical Experience and Educational Work Hours:** The GMEC will monitor each training program's work hours on a quarterly basis through the review of the Institute Education Committee Excel sheet data and Work Hours Review Periods reports from MedHub. Based on the extent and severity of non-compliance, the GMEC will determine if any additional follow-up is required. A survey of clinical trainees may be conducted; after the survey results are compiled, the Program Director will be required to produce a written plan of action. If areas of non-compliance are still in existence, the Program Director may be invited to a GMEC meeting to discuss the non-compliance issues and program response. The GMEC will continue to follow-up until compliance with all requirements is achieved.

The GMEC will also monitor compliance of clinical experience and educational work hours through:

- Annual Cleveland Clinic Evaluation of a Training Program results
- Annual ACGME Clinical Trainee Survey results
- RC Notification Letters
- Periodic monitoring of individual programs
- Random surveying of clinical trainees as determined by GMEC
- GMEC Special Review Process

### **Florida Moonlighting Policy**

The time spent in Graduate Medical Education is designed and dedicated to achieving competence in clinical care and academic excellence within the chosen specialty.

Moonlighting is permitted if opportunities exist that, in the opinion of program director, does not interfere with the main objectives of training, adherence to work hour rules, or with the wellbeing of the Resident or Fellow. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requires that Sponsoring Institutions have a written policy on moonlighting. The Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC) is responsible for monitoring and advising on all aspects of training at Cleveland Clinic, including but not limited to, each program's adherence to the prudent work requirement limits set by the Review Committees (RC).

In this capacity, the GMEC has implemented the following general rules regarding moonlighting:

1. PGY1 Residents are NOT permitted to moonlight.
2. Moonlighting must occur outside training hours and not conflict with training activities. This means moonlighting may occur in the evening or on weekends based on the Resident or Fellows educational/program responsibilities.
3. Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the Resident or Fellow to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program or hinder patient care in any way.
4. Residents or Fellows must not be required to moonlight.
5. Each academic year Residents or Fellows who would like to moonlight must submit a Moonlighting Request in MedHub with details on location, description, type (internal/external), start/end date, and number of hours per week. This will be routed to the PD for review. If approved by the PD, the request would then go to the GME Office for secondary approval. The GME Office would ensure that the resident/fellow meets all needed parameters to qualify for moonlighting and take action accordingly.
6. All moonlighting (internal and external) must be counted toward the 80 hour weekly limit on workhours and Residents or Fellows must document and account for all approved internal and external moonlighting activities in MedHub.
7. As required by the Joint Commission (JC), Residents or Fellows engaged in moonlighting (regardless of level of responsibility and/or supervision) must hold a current permanent license issued by the State Medical Board of Ohio.
8. As required by the DEA and Board of Pharmacy, any resident or fellow engaged in moonlighting that could involve writing a script for a scheduled drug must obtain their own personal DEA number. Once a personal DEA number is obtained it will be used for all purposes and the institutional DEA must no longer be used. Programs may appeal to the GME Office for an exemption if circumstances prevent the resident from writing a script for or providing scheduled drugs bedside. This applies in the case of pathology trainees who do not see patients, or imaging trainees providing oversight for contrast reactions at family health centers where no drugs are available to be administered.
9. Residents or Fellows on J-1 visas are not eligible to moonlight under any circumstances due to federal regulations which do not permit activity and/or compensation outside of the sponsored program, or moonlighting.

## Clinical Trainee Work Environment

Graduate Medical Education at Cleveland Clinic is committed to promoting a learning environment where patient safety and clinical trainee wellbeing are of paramount importance. Education of clinical trainees must occur in an environment in which they are able to raise and resolve issues without fear of intimidation or retaliation. An organizational system for clinical trainees to communicate and exchange information about their work environment and their programs will be provided in a confidential and protected manner. This may be accomplished through direct communication with the Program Director, Chief Resident, Faculty or with the Director or the Administrative Director of Graduate Medical Education and/or through the House Staff Association.

The following services are provided to support the environment in which clinical trainees work, and maximize the educational value of the time spent in clinical activities. Please refer to your institutions Benefit Booklet for details on to access these services.

- a) Food Services: Clinical trainees on duty must have access to adequate and appropriate food services. Clinical trainees who are required to be in-house overnight call are provided with on-call meals allowance.
- b) Call Rooms: Cleveland Clinic maintains on-call rooms for clinical trainees who are on in-house overnight call. Any clinical trainee required to be in-house must have access to a call room.
- c) Caring For Caregivers: Employee Assistance Programs: Cleveland Clinic and the Education Institute are committed to the wellbeing of clinical trainees and understand how personal and work stresses can impact your quality of life and ability to provide skillful and compassionate care. The Caring for Caregivers Programs offer expert, confidential and free support through various referrals and resources. To learn more, seek assistance confidentially, schedule an appointment or speak to a counselor immediately, call 216-445-6970. For additional information, refer to [Caring for Caregivers](#).
- d) Laboratory/Pathology/Radiology Services: There are laboratory, pathology, and radiology services to support timely and quality patient care in all training programs. This includes 24-hour retrievals of laboratory, pathology, and radiology information via electronic or online systems. All clinical trainees have access to this patient information through EPIC.
- e) Support Services: Patient support services, such as intravenous services, phlebotomy services, and patient transportation services are provided to all clinical trainees and training programs.
- f) Medical Records: Cleveland Clinic utilizes EPIC System's electronic medical record (EMR). There are several components to the Epic System software that include an outpatient electronic medical record (EpicCare) and an inpatient electronic medical record (Epic Inpatient) as well as a scheduling/registration, patient access and inpatient pharmacy. These integrated components are accessed through a single MyPractice/Epic Systems login screen. Providers use EPIC to document each patient's illness, treatment and care; the EMR is available at all times except during scheduled downtimes. The system supports quality patient care, the education of clinical trainees, quality assurance activities, and provides a resource for scholarly activity.

- g) **Security/Safety:** Appropriate security and personal safety measures are provided to clinical trainees at all Cleveland Clinic locations including but not limited to parking facilities, on-call quarters, hospital and institutional grounds, and related clinical facilities. Cleveland Clinic has a safety and security program that conforms to all applicable local, state and federal safety and health standards, fire codes and environmental regulations. Security is provided by the Cleveland Clinic Police Department. Personal security escorts are provided by contacting the Cleveland Clinic Police Department for trainees who are concerned about displacement on campus.
- h) **Transportation:** Training programs offer a taxi service for clinical trainees who may be too fatigued to safely return home. The taxi services are reimbursable through each department. Clinical trainees in need of this service should contact their Chief Resident, Program Coordinator or Program Director for more information.
- i) **Space:** Cleveland Clinic offers conference rooms with AV equipment, computers and access to library material. Programs also provide workspace areas for trainees in their programs, please contact the Program Coordinator regarding what is available in the clinical area.
- j) **iPhones:** iPhones are made available to all clinical trainees, which allow 24/7 access to key applications such as the IRIS app. This app permits patient record retrieval (including images). The impetus for this significant institutional commitment is the belief that this technology will assist clinical trainees in conducting improved transitions of care through the hand off tool in EPIC, our institutional electronic medical record system and will enhance quality and patient safety.
- k) **Additional Program Resources:** Cleveland Clinic and each program must ensure that adequate resources (e.g., sufficient laboratory space and equipment, computer and statistical consultation services) are available to clinical trainees. In addition, necessary professional, technical and clerical personnel must be provided to support the program.

### **Emergent Situations or Disasters (Extreme Events) Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Minimize the impact of an extreme event or disaster on clinical trainees and to protect their well-being, safety and educational experience.
- Provide general information and procedures to support Cleveland Clinic GME programs and clinical trainees in the event of a disaster or interruption in their educational experience.
- Provide guidelines for communication with Program Directors and clinical trainees regarding reconstitution or restructuring of a clinical trainees educational experience as rapidly as possible after an extreme event or determining the need for transfer or closure in the event of that normal program activity cannot be reconstituted.

For purposes of this policy an extreme event can be either:

- A disaster – defined as an event or set of events causing significant alteration to the clinical trainee experience at one or more training programs in an entire community or region. These may include, but are not limited to natural disasters (tornado, external flood, earthquake, etc.) or terrorism. The ACGME Executive Director makes the declaration of a disaster or

- An extreme emergent situation – defined as a local event (such as a hospital-declared disaster for an epidemic) that affects clinical trainee education or the work environment but does not rise to the level of an ACGME-declared disaster.

Clinical trainees are first and foremost healthcare providers, whether they are acting under normal circumstances or in extreme events as defined above. Clinical trainees must be expected to perform according to society's expectations of healthcare providers as professionals and leaders in health care delivery. Decisions regarding a clinical trainee involvement in local extreme emergent situations must take into account the following aspects of his or her multiple roles as a trainee, a physician and an institutional employee:

- The nature of the health care and the clinical work they are expected to deliver;
- Clinical trainees level of post-graduate education;
- Clinical trainees safety, considering their level of post-graduate training, associated professional judgment, capacity and the nature of the disaster at hand;
- Board certification eligibility during or after a prolonged extreme emergent situation;
- Reasonable expectations for duration of engagement in the extreme emergent situation;
- Self-limitations according to the clinical trainee's maturity to act under significant stress or even duress

Clinical trainees are students who should not be first-line responders without appropriate supervision given the clinical situation at hand and their level of training and competence. If a clinical trainee is working under a training certificate from a state licensing board, he or she must work under supervision. Clinical trainee performance during extreme events should not exceed expectations for their scope of competence as judged by Program Directors and other attending physicians. In addition, a clinical trainee must not be expected to perform in any situations outside of the scope of their individual license.

DIO/GME Office Process for an Extreme Emergent Situation: The Program Directors first point of contact for answers regarding an extreme emergent situation and the resulting impact on clinical trainee education and work environment must be the Director of GME/Designated Institutional Official (DIO) or his or her designee. The DIO will contact the Executive Director of the Institutional Review Committee (ED-IRC) via telephone only if an extreme emergent situation causes serious extended disruption to resident and fellow assignments, educational infrastructure or clinical operations that might affect the Sponsoring Institution's or any of its programs' ability to conduct resident education in substantial compliance with ACGME, Institutional, Common and Specialty-Specific Program Requirements. The DIO will provide information to the ED-IRC regarding the extreme emergent situation and the status of the educational environment for its accredited programs resulting from the extreme event. The DIO will receive electronic confirmation of this communication with the ED-IRC which will include copies to all EDs of Review Committees (RCs).

Only upon receipt of this confirmation by the DIO, may the Program Directors contact their respective EDs-RCs if necessary, to discuss any specialty-specific concerns regarding interruptions to resident education or effect on educational environment. Program Directors are expected to update the DIO on the results of conversations with EDs-RCs, regarding any

specialty-specific issues. The DIO will notify the ED-IRC when the institutional extreme emergent situation has been resolved.

DIO/GME Office Process for a Disaster: The Program Directors first point of contact for answers regarding a disaster and the resulting impact on clinical trainee education and work environment, must be the Director of GME/DIO or designee. The DIO will contact the Executive Director of the Institutional Review Committee (ED-IRC) via telephone in the case of a disaster which causes serious, extended disruption to resident and fellow assignments, educational infrastructure or clinical operations that might affect the Sponsoring Institution's and its programs' ability to conduct resident and fellow education in substantial compliance with ACGME Institutional, Common, and specialty-specific Program Requirements.

The DIO will monitor progress of both healthcare delivery and functional status of GME programs for their educational mission during and following a disaster. The DIO or designee will call or email the ED-IRC with information and/or requests for information. Similarly the Program Directors will contact the appropriate ED-RC with information and/or requests for information. Clinical trainees can call or email the appropriate ED-RC with information and/or requests for information.

The DIO or designee will work with the ACGME to determine the appropriate timing and action of the options for disaster impacted institution and/or programs:

- Maintain functionality and integrity of program(s)
- Arrange temporary transfers of clinical trainees to other programs/institutions until such time as the training program(s) can provide an adequate educational experience for each of its clinical trainees
- Assist the clinical trainees in permanent transfers to other programs/institutions, as necessitated by program or institution closure

If more than one program/institution is available for temporary or permanent transfer of a particular clinical trainee, the transfer preferences of each clinical trainee will be considered. Decisions to keep/transfer will be made expeditiously so as to maximize the likelihood that each house officer will complete the training year in a timely manner.

Within ten days after the declaration of a disaster by the ACGME, the DIO or his or her designee will contact ACGME to discuss due dates that ACGME will establish for the programs: (a) to submit program reconfigurations to ACGME and (b) to inform each program's house officers of transfer decisions. The due dates for submission shall be no later than 30 days after the disaster unless other due dates are approved by ACGME.

## **Residency Closure/Reduction Policy**

In order to reiterate the institutional commitment of the Cleveland Clinic to graduate medical education, the following policy has been established and approved by the Graduate Medical Education Council (GMEC). The Cleveland Clinic will inform the GMEC, the Designated Institutional Office and the affected residents or fellows as soon as possible, when it decides to reduce the size of or close one or more programs or when the Cleveland Clinic intends to close. In the event Cleveland Clinic decides to reduce the number of residency or fellowship positions in any ACGME program, Cleveland Clinic will attempt to reduce the numbers over a period of time so that it will not affect the residents or fellows currently in the program. If this is not possible, Cleveland Clinic will make reasonable efforts to assist the residents or fellows in identifying and entering another ACGME program.

In the event Cleveland Clinic decides to close a residency or fellowship program, the residents or fellows in it or committed to it, will be allowed to complete their education if faculty and patient material is adequate. If either faculty or patient material is inadequate, the Cleveland Clinic will make reasonable efforts to assist the residents or fellows in identifying and entering another ACGME program. In the event that Cleveland Clinic was to close, the DIO and the GMEC would be notified as soon as possible. The DIO would work in conjunction with the ACGME, the GMEC and Cleveland Clinic Program Directors as well as local teaching hospitals to arrange permanent transfers for residents and fellows to other ACGME programs. If a reduction or closure would occur at Cleveland Clinic, the DIO and the GMEC would work with the Program Director of the affected program(s) to develop a rotation at another medical center that could offer the requisite educational experience.

## **Accepting Residents from Other Programs Due to Emergent Situations, Disasters or Program Closures**

There may be situations which require training programs in other academic medical centers to seek temporary or permanent positions for their clinical trainees. This policy is intended to provide guidance to Cleveland Clinic Program Directors who may be asked to provide positions for clinical trainees who are unable to continue in their current programs due to an emergent or disaster situation.

When a Cleveland Clinic Program Director is approached about accepting a displaced clinical trainee, the first point of contact should be the DIO at Cleveland Clinic to determine the feasibility of sponsoring an additional clinical trainee. The Program Director will be asked to provide assurance documentation that; 1) there is enough clinical material available for an additional clinical trainee 2) an additional clinical trainee will not negatively impact the training experience of current clinical trainees, rotators and/or medical students and 3) this request has been presented to and approved by the appropriate (institute or academic) education committee. If the DIO is satisfied that the program meets these criteria, the process will move forward.

The DIO will contact the ACGME to ascertain the status of the academic medical center/program currently sponsoring the displaced clinical trainee. If it is confirmed that clinical trainees are being relocated to other training programs and the Cleveland Clinic Program

Director is interested, the DIO (or GMEC representative) will contact the current sponsoring institution regarding transfer of the FTE (for CMS GME reimbursement). If the FTE is not transferred, the clinical department at Cleveland Clinic would need to financially sponsor the displaced clinical trainee from department operating funds.

## Rotations Policy

Cleveland Clinic is committed to providing clinical trainees with an educational program that offers an experience of learning and broad education in the science and art of medicine. Recognizing that some educational experiences may need to be obtained outside of Cleveland Clinic or one of its affiliates, this policy is adopted concerning those experiences.

In compliance with ACGME Requirements; the Sponsoring Institution (Cleveland Clinic) and the training Program Director have responsibility for monitoring the quality of GME, including when clinical trainee education occurs in other institutions. There must be full consideration of the quality of the rotation, including goals, objectives and supervision, the educational necessity of the rotation, the accreditation implications and the financial implications of the rotation. It is also expected that the site will provide all ancillary services as expected by the ACGME as well as provide sufficient workspace and sleeping quarters if applicable.

Program Directors must ensure that each rotation (required or elective) complies with RC specialty specific requirements and board requirements for training. Numerous options for elective rotations in a wide variety of specialties and settings are available within Cleveland Clinic Health System (CCHS) and clinical trainees should be encouraged to schedule their elective rotations within the system. If a clinical trainee selects an elective option not available within the CCHS, the Program Director would make the decision based on educational merit. Please note: Electives outside of CCHS are not covered under Cleveland Clinic malpractice; coverage will need to be obtained through the institution which the clinical trainee is rotating or the clinical trainee may purchase an individual policy. The program is responsible for assuring this is in place prior to the rotation.

All Cleveland Clinic affiliation agreements must go through an internal review process with the GME office prior to signing. The review process will ensure accuracy, compliance, and appropriateness of the relationship with the external site. The Training Affiliation Agreement Request Form must be completed and submitted to the GMEC office 10-weeks prior to the scheduled start of the proposed rotation and/or for renewal of the rotation. The GME office will then contact the site, ensure the appropriate affiliation agreement template is filled out correctly, and route the agreement for signatures. Failure to adhere to proper procedures could result in delays in agreement processing. Please refer to the International Away Rotations Policy for information on experiences outside of the United States.

Required Rotations: Rotations are considered required rotations when all clinical trainees (at a specific graduate level or anytime during training) are scheduled for the rotation. Required rotations should be obtained within CCHS whenever possible. If an experience which is a required component of the program truly cannot be obtained within CCHS (such as trauma experience), the institution will provide malpractice insurance for the rotation.

Elective Rotations: Many programs provide elective time for their clinical trainees to gain additional experience in work environments or subspecialties of particular interest. As CCHS provides a vast diversity of experiences (tertiary care center experiences, community hospital and various ambulatory settings) it is expected that clinical trainees complete their elective experiences within the system whenever possible. When a clinical trainee is interested in an experience outside of CCHS approval and proof of malpractice must be obtained as Cleveland Clinic does not extend malpractice coverage for clinical trainees on elective rotations outside of CCHS.

Program Director Responsibilities when clinical trainees(s) are on rotations:

1. Ensure that a current affiliation agreement exists that meets ACGME Common & RC-specific requirements and is reviewed at least annually and revised every five (5) years or sooner if significant changes such as: Program Director, Site Director, Goals & Objectives, PGY level or length of the rotation occur.
2. Ensure that there are competency-based goals and objectives and that they are distributed to the clinical trainee prior to the rotation.
3. Ensure that the patient care responsibility is appropriate for the clinical trainee's level and ability.
4. Monitor all aspects of the rotation, including:
  - a) Curriculum, including conference participation at participating site(s)
  - b) The on-call schedule to assure appropriate supervision and adequate back-up while on-call
  - c) Work hours of clinical trainees
  - d) Compliance with ACGME common program requirements, RC specialty requirements and policies, including, but not limited to: work hours, fatigue mitigation and supervision
  - e) Evaluations are completed for the clinical trainees by attending faculty
  - f) That clinical trainees complete evaluations for the attending faculty with whom they rotate
  - g) That clinical trainees complete a rotation evaluation at the completion of the rotation. Any evaluation reflecting a significantly negative experience should result in a personal interview with that clinical trainee and follow-up with the Site Director if necessary.
5. Participate in regular and ongoing communication with the Site Director.
6. Ensure that the rotation is providing the clinical trainee with a quality educational experience (didactic conferences as well as clinical education) as described in the rotation goals and objectives.
7. Ensure that the clinical trainee is informed of and adhere to established educational and clinical practices, policies and procedures at all sites to which clinical trainees are assigned.
8. Conduct annual visits the site and meet with the Site Director of the participating site(s) to assure an optimal experience.
9. In conjunction with the Site Director; monitor the clinical trainee's work environment, which includes but is not limited to adequate food service, call rooms, patient support services, laboratory/pathology/radiology services, medical records, lactation room availability, safety/security and parking.

Procedure for Offsite Required Rotations: For Required rotations, all clinical trainees in the program at a particular PGY level must participate in the rotation, which must be a required component of the curriculum and noted on the ACGME ADS block diagram. The Training Affiliation Agreement Request Form must be completed and submitted to the GME office 10-weeks prior to the scheduled start of the proposed rotation. The GME office will then contact the site, ensure the appropriate affiliation agreement template is filled out correctly, and route the agreement for signatures.

Affiliation Agreements are required for all non-Cleveland Clinic external sites and Cleveland Clinic Regional Hospitals. The maximum term for an affiliation agreement is five years, but the term length can fluctuate depending on the specific circumstances with the site and rotation experience. The program must submit Goals and Objectives for the particular rotation they are requesting.

Executed versions of the affiliation agreement are stored in the GME office, with Cleveland Clinic legal, and uploaded in MedHub. The Cleveland Clinic program and participating site contacts will receive the executed version of the affiliation agreement. Once there is an affiliation agreement in place, the site must be listed appropriately in the ACGME ADS system under the participating sites location, on the programs academic year block diagram and in MedHub. Any time spent at the external site must be reflected on the MedHub schedule and tagged appropriately.

Procedure for Offsite Elective Rotations: For elective rotations, the clinical trainee must first seek approval from their Program Director to pursue the elective experience. By pursuing the elective, the clinical trainee will need to ensure that they have enough elective time to accommodate the experience. Elective time must be available on the block diagram in order for the clinical trainee to pursue the experience. While the clinical trainee is on an elective rotation, the PC must appropriately track their time away in MedHub. The clinical trainee must be Board eligible by the time of graduation, and the elective experience should not impede this requirement.

Clinical trainees may participate in domestic elective experiences outside of Cleveland Clinic sites, if approved by the PD, however, as the sponsoring site, Cleveland Clinic does not provide clinical trainees with malpractice insurance for elective rotations. It will be the responsibility of the clinical trainee to purchase the coverage for the rotation. Proof of purchased malpractice insurance coverage must be submitted to the participating site stored in the clinical trainee MedHub file and also included with the executed affiliation agreement. The clinical trainee will have to complete appropriate onboarding requirements, including but not limited to, fulfilling medical licensure requirements.

The Training Affiliation Agreement Request Form must be completed and submitted to the GME office 10-weeks prior to the scheduled start of the proposed rotation. The GME office will then contact the site, ensure the appropriate affiliation agreement template is filled out correctly, and route the agreement for signatures. Affiliation agreements for elective experiences should be done on the specific elective affiliation agreement template, and the

term of the agreement should only cover the specific rotation dates.

Executed versions of the affiliation agreement are stored in the GME office, with Cleveland Clinic legal, and also uploaded in MedHub. The Cleveland Clinic program and participating site contacts will receive an executed version of the affiliation agreement. Any time spent at the external site must be reflected on the MedHub schedule and tagged appropriately.

Procedure for Visiting Resident/Fellow Rotations: The Visiting Resident Appointment Request Form must be submitted to the appropriate GME staff no less than 10 weeks prior to the start date of the requested rotation for new visiting residents and 4 weeks prior for returning visiting residents. If the visiting resident appointment request form is missing any information, the form may be returned and could delay the rotation. After a completed visiting resident appointment request form is provided to GME by the Program Coordinator, the GME office will have the necessary information to initiate the affiliation agreement process with the sponsoring site. The GME office will work in conjunction with the sponsoring site and Cleveland Clinic program to ensure that the template is filled out accurately prior to signing. Cleveland Clinic will never provide the malpractice insurance for a visiting resident/fellow. The visiting resident/fellow's home institution will either have to cover the insurance, or the clinical trainee will have to purchase the insurance coverage on their own.

The agreement term should be listed for the specific rotation dates unless the Cleveland Clinic program is a required rotation and/or receives several visiting residents/fellows from the particular sponsoring site on a consistent basis. Once a fully executed agreement is in place, a copy will be stored in MedHub through the expiration date of the agreement. The following will also receive executed version of the agreement: Cleveland Clinic legal, the Cleveland Clinic program and sponsoring site program. Prior to the start of the rotation a fully executed affiliation agreement must be in place and the visiting resident/fellow must fulfill all onboarding requirements.

Procedure for Visiting Resident/Fellow Observation Experiences: Many rotations may appear to be observational in nature, however, if the visiting resident/fellow is in any way interacting with patients, even indirectly such as reviewing lab results or x-rays, they are not considered observers and must meet licensure requirements and have medical malpractice coverage for the duration of the rotation. True observation experiences, in which a visitor simply follows the faculty member and observes may be vetted and on boarded through SilkRoad, and are for three days or less. The observer will have absolutely no patient care or interaction. Cleveland Clinic will have no record of their observation, and the observer will not be able to seek credit for this experience.

### **International Away Rotations Policy**

Cleveland Clinic residents/fellows may participate in elective experiences outside of the United States provided appropriate approvals are obtained and the international rotation is felt to provide an experience which cannot be provided at Cleveland Clinic. An application must be completed by the resident/fellow which includes a detailed description of the rotation's goals, objectives and competency-based curriculum. Program Directors must ensure that appropriate evaluations are completed for residents on away electives in order to document credit for the

time spent away. There must be a program policy on how to apply for away rotations, amount of permissible away time and if necessary, procedure for the completion of missed core educational sessions.

Funding of salary, all fringe benefits will remain as fiscally approved by Cleveland Clinic unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Affiliation Agreement. Professional liability coverage should be provided by the inviting institution, if possible. In cases in which liability coverage is not provided by the inviting institution, GME will review each case individually and may be able to extend Cleveland Clinic liability.

Graduate Medical Education is not responsible for any subsidization for travel, housing, meals, or other living expenses while on international rotations. If a resident/fellow is currently training on a visa, a consultation with the International Physician Services is required to determine any potential visa issues.

Guidelines for requesting and approving an international off-site elective rotation are:

- A. Resident/Fellow must discuss with the Program Director and determine if ACGME or Board approval needs to be obtained prior to seeking institutional approval.
- B. Resident must complete the international elective request form and obtain the permission and signature of the Program Director. This paperwork must be submitted to the Education Institute a minimum of 90 days prior to the time of the requested elective. This allows time for processing and execution of an affiliation agreement. The completed application must include:
  - a. A letter of acceptance from the supervising physician to your Program Director that includes:
    - i. Detailed description of the rotation
      1. Dates
      2. Projected work hours
      3. Summary of clinical and/or research responsibilities
    - ii. Educational goals and objectives of the rotation
    - iii. Statement that appropriate supervision will be maintained
    - iv. Agreement to complete an evaluation at the end of the rotation
  - b. Once approved, it is the responsibility of the Program Director and Coordinator to communicate with the Graduate Medical Education Office in order to create an affiliation agreement for the rotation and ensure that accreditation standards including supervision, working hours, and safety are followed.

**Travel Advisory:** There are inherent risks when travelling out of the United States. The State Department's Travel Advisory can change overnight, which can result in suspension of previously approved international electives at the last minute. As such, we strongly encourage Residents/Fellows to purchase trip insurance when making their travel arrangements in case change or cancellation of the arrangements is unavoidable at the last minute. If the US Department of State labels a country under a Level 4 Travel Advisory, then the rotation is automatically prohibited. If a country is labeled under a Level 3 Travel Advisory, special consideration will be taken to ensure the rotation is appropriate. All Cleveland Clinic business related travel should be booked through AmEx Global Business Travel. If the participating

institution makes the travel arrangements through a different travel agency, than the travel itinerary must be provided to the Cleveland Clinic Program Director and the GME office. The itinerary will be submitted to World Aware so the traveler will have access to daily travel advisories and Protective Services will be aware of the global travelers whereabouts in the event of a crisis in that part of the world.

Immunizations: Trainees are responsible for obtaining any required travel immunizations and medications. The Cleveland Clinic Health Plan does not cover immunizations required only for international travel. Please refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for up-to-date information and speak with your host site for their requirements. The cost of immunizations is completely the responsibility of the traveler. It can be several hundred dollars at a minimum.

## Supervision of Clinical Trainees

### Purpose:

- To maximize the clinical trainee educational experience while maintaining a focus on patient safety and quality patient care
- To provide clear communication regarding which physician faculty member has supervisory responsibility, the nature of that responsibility and contact information for anticipated circumstances
- To assure appropriate supervision is provided to clinical trainees based on program/graduate level specific policies, which indicate gradual responsibility and progression toward each clinical trainee becoming an independent practitioner in their specialty

### Policy Standards:

1. In the clinical learning environment, each patient must have an identifiable, appropriately credentialed and privileged supervising physician, who is ultimately responsible for clinical services provided for each patient's care.
  - This information should be available to clinical trainees, faculty, patients and other caregivers.
  - Clinical trainees and faculty should inform patients of their respective roles.
  - The supervising physician is responsible for determining the level of supervision required for appropriate training and to assure quality of patient care.
2. The Program Director must ensure that appropriate (program and graduate level specific) supervision policies are developed, communicated and adhered to by teaching faculty, supervising physicians and clinical trainees.
3. Program Directors must set guidelines for circumstances and events which clinical trainees must communicate with appropriate supervising faculty members. Inclusive, but not limited to the transfer of a patient to an intensive care unit, request to discharge a patient against medical advice and end-of-life decisions.
4. Each clinical trainee is responsible for knowing the limits of his or her scope of authority and the circumstances under which he or she is permitted to act with conditional independence. To allow clinical trainees to accomplish this, each Training Program Director shall develop explicit written descriptions of supervisory lines of responsibility

for the care of patients. Such guidelines must be communicated to all clinical trainees and members of the program's teaching faculty.

5. Supervising physician schedules must be structured to provide clinical trainees with rapid reliable systems for communication and interaction with supervisory physicians. In addition, on-call schedules shall be established that guarantee full and comprehensive coverage of institutional patients and facilities.
6. Supervising physicians are responsible for determining when a clinical trainee is unable to function at the level required to provide safe high quality patient care to assigned patients and must have the authority to adjust assigned work hours as necessary to ensure that patients are not placed at risk by clinical trainees who are overly fatigued, stressed or otherwise impaired.

**Progressive Responsibility:** Supervision should be graded to provide gradually increased responsibility into the role of a judgmentally sound, technically skilled and independently credentialed provider.

- The privilege of progressive responsibility, authority and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each clinical trainee must be assigned by the Program Director and supervising faculty.
- Faculty supervision assignments should be of sufficient duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each clinical trainee and delegate him or her the appropriate level of patient care authority and responsibility.
- The Program Director must evaluate each clinical trainee's abilities utilizing specific criteria, based on the general competencies and incorporated in various methods of assessment.
- Supervising physicians should delegate portions of care to clinical trainees, based on the needs of each patient and the respective skills of the clinical trainee.
- Senior residents or fellows can serve in a supervisory role of junior residents in recognition of their progress toward independence, based on the needs of each patient and the skills of the individual clinical trainee.
- Ultimately, the clinical responsibilities for each clinical trainee must be based on the PGY-level, clinical experience, severity and complexity of patient illness/condition, available support services and foremost; patient safety.

**Levels of Supervision:** The type of supervision required by clinical trainees at various levels of training must be consistent with the requirement for progressive increased responsibility, the applicable program requirements of the individual Review Committee (RC) as well as common standards for quality and safe patient care.

1. Direct Supervision
  - a. The supervising physician is physically present with the resident and patient.
2. Indirect Supervision
  - a. With direct supervision immediately available – the supervising physician is physically within the hospital or other site of patient care and is immediately available to provide Direct Supervision.
  - b. With direct supervision available – the supervising physician is not physically present within the hospital or other site of patient care, but is immediately

available by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities and is available to provide Direct Supervision.

3. Oversight

- a. The supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered.

Program Specific Supervision Policy:

- Develop and review annually, a program specific policy regarding supervision, progressive responsibility and fatigue management.
- Include criteria for determining needed level of supervision for a given clinical trainee under a given set of circumstances.
- Provide expectations for how supervision will be documented in the medical record, as well as procedures for monitoring supervision of clinical trainees.
- Include circumstances in which clinical trainees must communicate with the supervising physician, including but not limited to, end of life decisions, discharge against medical advice and transfer to an intensive care unit.
- Assure supervising physicians and clinical trainees receive and understand the lines and levels of supervision for each graduate level and rotation (when appropriate).
- Assess that supervising physicians are providing the appropriate level of supervision based on adherence to the program specific policy as well as evaluations, surveys and other feedback submitted by clinical trainees.
- Develop options for clinical trainees who are identified (or self-identify) as too fatigued to provide quality patient care.
- Incorporate the general standards for supervision from the Graduate Medical Education Council policy.

## ADDENDUM I- CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT/REQUIREMENTS --- CLINICAL

In order to begin training/working at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Clinic Akron General, or Cleveland Clinic Florida – Weston, you must first attend orientation in Graduate Medical Education (GME). Salary and/or benefits will be held until you have formally processed in with GME and have successfully completed all conditions of employment and met the requirements below.

1. Provide a copy of either a permanent **Ohio, Florida, or Nevada Medical License or Training Certificate/License** issued by the respective state medical board for training at Cleveland Clinic. *Does not apply to Postdoctoral Psychology Fellows, Psychology Residents or Special Fellows.*

**NOTE TO CLINICAL FELLOWS (NST TRAINEE):** MANY CLINICAL DEPARTMENTS REQUIRE CLINICAL FELLOWS (NST TRAINEE) TO OBTAIN PERMANENT LICENSURE IN THE STATE OF OHIO OR NEVADA. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR OF YOUR CLEVELAND CLINIC FELLOWSHIP REGARDING OTHER REQUIREMENTS YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO MEET TO BEGIN THE PROGRAM. *Does not apply to J1 visa holders.*

2. Complete a **health screening** performed by Cleveland Clinic Occupational Health before your orientation date; which includes completion of a health questionnaire, vital signs and **urine test for substance abuse**. As Cleveland Clinic is committed to providing a drug-free work environment, our Substance Abuse Policy prohibits caregivers from reporting to work or working impaired or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances, including but not limited to, marijuana. This prohibition includes the use of or impairment from medical marijuana and consumables that contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), regardless of whether recreational or medicinal use is permissible under applicable state or local law. Please be advised that positive results for any illicit drugs or non-prescribed controlled substances will constitute ineligibility for employment. The Cleveland Clinic reserves the right to subject you to **random toxicology screenings** after initial hiring.

3. Cleveland Clinic has implemented a **nicotine screening policy** requiring all job applicants and individuals receiving appointments to take a cotinine test during their pre-placement physical exam. This is a pre-employment test only. The cotinine test will detect the presence of nicotine in all forms of tobacco. If you test positive for nicotine but agree to stop using nicotine (in any form), you will be allowed to start work and be re-tested within 90 days. However, if your nicotine re-test is positive, your employment will be terminated at that time. You will be eligible to re-apply after one year. This is at the discretion of the program director should the position remain open.

4. Cleveland Clinic **requires a criminal background check** for all employees. The Department of Protective Services will conduct the background check through a database search. Employment is conditional pending the return of the background check.

5. Complete all required institutional and program specific **MyLearning** online modules determined for your job classification. MyLearning modules must be completed in the time frame established.

6. Clinical trainees are required to have a **National Provider Identifier (NPI)**. The NPI for each health care provider is assigned by the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). Proof must be uploaded into the Residency Management System (MedHub). To apply refer to <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> (apply as an individual). You must have

a social security number to apply for an NPI. See #9 for information regarding application for a social security card.  
*Does not apply to Postdoctoral Psychology Fellows, Psychology Residents or Special Fellows.*

7. Provide the requested documents to accompany the **Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9)** as required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. **Original documents must be presented at the GME orientation.**

8. **In Accordance with the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements, graduates of medical schools outside of the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico must provide either a copy of a current, valid standard ECFMG Certificate** or written documentation that the physician is eligible to receive same. *Does not apply to Postdoctoral Psychology Fellows, Psychology Residents or Special Fellows.*

9. Produce or obtain a **social security number (SSN)** for payroll purposes and enrollment in the Cleveland Clinic health care plan. A copy of the actual social security card is required. If you do not have a social security number/card, information on how and where to apply can be obtained from <http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber> or by calling 800-772-1213. H-1B holders can apply any time after arrival in the U.S.; J-1 holders need to wait until after their orientation to apply for their social security number.

10. Ohio based trainees are also expected to enroll in ORP (Medicaid) and PECOS (Medicare) for prescribing purposes. Florida and Nevada based trainees must complete PECOS (Medicare). Please note: you must have an SSN and NPI prior to applying. Additional Information and enrollment materials can be found at:

ORP:

<https://portal.ohmits.com/public/Providers/Enrollment/tabid/44/Default.aspx>

PECOS: <https://pecos.cms.hhs.gov/>

11. Other supporting documents required to complete your permanent education record (uploaded to Residency Management System-MedHub).

3/2025

## Sample ACGME Accredited Program Trainee Contract



Jeremy Lipman, M.D., MHPE, FACS, FASCRS  
James E. Sampliner, MD Endowed Chair in Surgical Education  
DIO and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education  
Education Foundation/JJ24  
Office: 216-444-5690  
Fax: 216-636-0110

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

Jane Smith Doe Sr., MD  
123 My Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48130

Dear Dr. Doe:

I am pleased to inform you that the Cleveland Clinic has approved your appointment as a Fellow at Graduate Level III in the Cardiology Training Program for the year beginning 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025.

All appointments are for one year and may be renewed at the discretion of the institution upon continued evidence of satisfactory performance. Further, all appointments are subject to the policies and procedures set forth in the attachment and detailed in the Graduate Physicians Manual.

Your final appointment is contingent upon meeting the requirements in the attached addenda. New appointments are also contingent upon successful completion of required prerequisite training.

As an accepted Fellow of this institution, you will receive from the Cleveland Clinic an annual salary of \$41,234.56 for PGY III, plus fringe benefits as outlined in the Graduate Physicians Manual.

An electronic version of the Graduate Physicians Manual is available through your GME Registration packet in MedHub. The Graduate Physicians Manual outlines policies and procedures applicable to trainees. By providing your electronic signature you are attesting that you have read and agree to abide by the policies and information.

Kindly acknowledge in writing your acceptance of this appointment at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lipman, MD, MHPE, FACS, FASCRS



Jeremy Lipman, MD, MHPE, FACS, FASCRS  
Education Foundation/JJ24  
Office: 216-444-5690  
Fax: 216-636-0110

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Lipman, MD, MHPE, FACS, FASCRS  
James E. Sampliner, MD Endowed Chair in Surgical Education  
DIO and Director of Graduate Medical Education

Dear Dr. Lipman:

I am pleased to accept the appointment as a Fellow at Graduate Level III in the Cardiology Program for the year beginning 7/1/2024, through 6/30/2025.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jane Doe Sr.  
Cleveland Clinic

Jeremy Lipman, M.D., MHPE, FACS, FASCRS  
James E. Sampliner, MD Endowed Chair in Surgical Education  
DIO and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education  
Education Foundation/JJ24  
Office: 216-444-5690  
Fax: 216-636-0110

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

Jane Smith Doe Sr., MD  
123 My Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48130

Dear Dr. Doe:

I am pleased to inform you that the Cleveland Clinic has approved your appointment as a Clinical Fellow (NST Trainee) at Graduate Level III in the Cardiology Program for the year beginning 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025. This is **not** an ACGME accredited residency/fellowship program.

All appointments are for one year and may be renewed at the discretion of the institution upon continued evidence of satisfactory performance. Further, all appointments are subject to the policies and procedures set forth in the attachment and detailed in the Graduate Physicians Manual.

Your final appointment is contingent upon meeting the requirements in the attached addenda. New appointments are also contingent upon successful completion of required prerequisite training.

As an accepted Clinical Fellow (NST Trainee) of this institution, you will receive from the Cleveland Clinic an annual salary of \$41,234.56 plus fringe benefits as outlined in the Graduate Physicians Manual.

An electronic version of the Graduate Physicians Manual is available through your GME Registration packet in MedHub. The Graduate Physicians Manual outlines policies and procedures applicable to trainees. By providing your electronic signature you are attesting that you have read and agree to abide by the policies and information.

Kindly acknowledge in writing your acceptance of this appointment at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lipman, MD, MHPE, FACS, FASCRS

Jeremy Lipman, M.D., MHPE, FACS, FASCRS  
James E. Sampliner, MD Endowed Chair in Surgical Education  
DIO and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education  
Education Foundation/JJ24  
Office: 216-444-5690  
Fax: 216-636-0110

June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Lipman, MD, MHPE, FACS, FASCRS

Dear Dr. Lipman:

I am pleased to accept the appointment as a Clinical Fellow (NST Trainee) at Graduate Level III in the Cardiology Program for the year beginning 7/1/2024, through 6/30/2025.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jane Doe Sr.  
Cleveland Clinic