



**Baylor Scott & White**  
MEDICAL CENTER  
ROUND ROCK



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
School of Medicine

**Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock  
Graduate Medical Education  
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine**

**HOUSE STAFF HANDBOOK 2024-2025**

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION MISSION  
TO BE THE TRUSTED EDUCATOR IN VALUE-BASED CARE DELIVERY,  
PATIENT EXPERIENCE AND AFFORDABILITY.

*Last Publication: October 17, 2024*

This handbook serves as a general reference for all House Staff enrolled in a GME Program at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock. This edition of the House Staff Handbook supersedes any and all previous editions.

Please note the term House Staff and Residents/Fellows are interchanged throughout handbook. When appropriate, House Staff Policies were derived from a specific ACGME Common Program Requirement appropriate for that policy.

All listed revisions dates represent policies that were reviewed and received approval by the GMEC.



If additional information is needed, please contact:

Graduate Medical Education  
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512-509-3412

<https://www.bswhealth.med/education/Pages/gme/austin.aspx>

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### GME Staff & Programs

The Graduate Medical Education Office is located at 425 University Blvd, Suite 500, Round Rock, TX 78665. Hours of Operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

<b>Department/Program</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
GME Office	Rakesh Surapaneni, MD	Designated Institutional Official (DIO), GME	512-509-3412
GME Office	Taylor Chadwick, MBA	Institutional Coordinator / GME Manager	512-509-3412
<b>Program-ACGME</b>			
<b>Program-ACGME</b>	<b>Program Director/Associate PD</b>	<b>Program Administrator</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Family Medicine Residency	Patricia Lopez-Gutierrez, MD	Rosa Torres	512-509-3404
Internal Medicine Residency	Tapas Gajjar, MD	Martha Saenz	512-509-3731
Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship	Vijay Divakaran, MD	Melanie Roussel, MPH	512-509-3750
Interventional Cardiology	Angel Caldera, MD	Melanie Roussel, MPH	512-509-3750
Gastroenterology Fellowship	Erik Rahimi, MD	Bryan Nguyen	512-509-3750
Clinical Informatics Fellowship	Kenneth Youens, MD	Bryan Nguyen	512-509-3750
UME – TAMU / UT DELL	Melanie Roussel, Bryan Nguyen, & Taylor Chadwick		512-509-3412

## HOUSE STAFF COUNCIL

- All the residents and fellows are part of the house staff council that meets quarterly.
- A chair and vice chair of the council are elected by their peers to run the council. w
- None of the faculty or administrative staff are part of the council and only attend the council meeting on request from the council chair to address any concerns.
- Council is tasked to address learning and work environment concerns as related to the house staff. These include:
  1. Patient Safety
  2. Health Care Quality
  3. Care Transitions
  4. Supervision
  5. Resident Well-Being
  6. Professionalism
- Any resident/ fellow must have the opportunity to directly raise concern to the forum
- Action items brought up in the council are relayed to the DIO by the chair and vice chair and to the GMEC through the elected house staff members that are part of the GMEC.
- Chair and vice chair of the house staff council will represent the House staff in the GMEC.
- Chair and vice chair will be up to date with the ACGME CLER requirements.

### **2024-2025 Co-Chairs**

**Erik Smith, MD Pager # 512-205-2866**

**Shayan Hajivandi, MD Pager # 512-205-1270**

## OMBUDSMAN

The position of Ombudsman for Graduate Medical Education (GME) was developed to promote a positive climate for residency and fellowship education.

The Ombudsman will serve as an independent, impartial, informal and confidential resource for residents and fellows with training-related concerns.

**Ombudsman**

**Nancy Waiganjo, MD**

[Nancy.Waiganjo@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Nancy.Waiganjo@BSWHealth.org)

## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

### **COVID-19 (REV 07/2023)**

For the most recent policy, please visit:

<https://bsw.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?token=ce9e5a30-8d25-4b7f-bff7-de103f2c1131&dtoken=257dd3d3-7c12-405b-85a4-acbd59dc89b9>

For the most current HCID information, please visit:

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWInfectionControl/SitePages/HCID-Main.aspx>

*End of Covid-19 Policy*

### **HOUSE STAFF SELECTION/RECRUITMENT (REV 07/2023)**

BSW graduate medical education programs shall select applicants who meet the qualifications for eligibility set forth by the [Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education \(ACGME\)](#) as well as the Baylor Scott & White Recruitment, Interviewing and Selection Policy. All GME training programs participating in the National Ranking Match Program (NRMP) must adhere to all NRMP Policies regarding recruitment and selection. Applicants with one of the following qualifications to be eligible for appointment to an ACGME program:

(ACGME CPR III.A.1.)

- Graduation from a medical school in the United States or Canada, accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or graduation from a college of osteopathic medicine in the United States, accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOACOCA); or, (Core)
- III.A.1.b) graduation from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional qualifications: (Core)
- III.A.1.b).(1) holding a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) prior to appointment; or, (Core)
- III.A.1.b).(2) holding a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States licensing jurisdiction in which the ACGME-accredited program is located. (Core)

All pre-requisite post-graduate clinical education required for initial entry or transfer into ACGME-accredited programs, AOA-approved residency programs, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (CFPC)-accredited residency programs located in Canada, or in residency programs with ACGME International (ACGME-I) Advanced Specialty Accreditation.

Residency programs must receive verification of each resident's level of competency in the required clinical field using ACGME, CanMEDS, or ACGME-I Milestones evaluations from the prior training program upon matriculation.

1. A physician who has completed a residency program that was not accredited by ACGME, AOA, RCPSC, CFPC or ACGME-I (with Advanced Specialty Accreditation) may enter an ACGME-accredited residency program in the same specialty at the PGY-1 level and, at the discretion of

the program director at the ACGME-accredited program and with the approval by the GMEC, may be advanced to the PGY-2 level based on the ACGME Milestones evaluations at the ACGME-accredited program. This provision applies only to entry into residency in those specialties for which an initial clinical year is not required for entry.

#### Eligibility Requirements – Fellowship Programs

- Option 1: All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program, an AOA-approved residency program, a program with ACGME International (ACGME-I) Advanced Specialty Accreditation, or a RCPSC-accredited or CFPC-accredited residency program located in Canada.
- Option 2: All required clinical education for entry into ACGME-accredited fellowship programs must be completed in an ACGME-accredited residency program or an AOA-approved residency program.

If Option 1 above is selected: Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow's level of competence in the required field, upon matriculation, using ACGME, ACGME-I, or CanMEDS Milestones evaluations from the core residency program.

If Option 2 above is selected: Fellowship programs must receive verification of each entering fellow's level of competence in the required field, upon matriculation, using ACGME milestones evaluations from the core residency program

#### Fellow Eligibility Exception

A Review Committee may grant the following exception to the fellowship eligibility requirements:

*NOTE: Review Committees that selected Option 1 will decide whether or not to allow this exception. Review Committees that opted not to select this option and those Review Committees who selected Option 2 do not allow this exception.*

- An ACGME-accredited fellowship program may accept an exceptionally qualified international graduate applicant who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements listed in III.A.1., but who does meet all of the following additional qualifications and conditions: (Core)
- III.A.1.c).(1).(a) evaluation by the program director and fellowship selection committee of the applicant's suitability to enter the program, based on prior training and review of the summative evaluations of training in the core specialty; and, (Core)
- III.A.1.c).(1).(b) review and approval of the applicant's exceptional qualifications by the GMEC; and, (Core)
- III.A.1.c).(1).(c) verification of Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification. (Core)
- III.A.1.c).(2) Applicants accepted through this exception must have an evaluation of their performance by the Clinical Competency Committee within 12 weeks of matriculation. (Core)

Furthermore, House Staff must have passed the [USMLE Step II and Step II CSA](#), or equivalent (e.g. COMLEX), prior to beginning their training. Any exceptions to this policy must be obtained in writing from the Designated Institutional Official (DIO).

Programs should select from among eligible applicants on the basis of their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills and personal qualities, such as motivation and integrity. Programs must not discriminate with regard to sex, sexual orientation, race, age, religion, color, ethnicity, disability or veteran status.

In selecting from among qualified applicants, programs are encouraged to participate in an organized matching program, such as the [National Resident Matching Program \(NRMP\)](#), where available.

### **VISAs**

Currently, Baylor Scott & White – Round Rock does not accept Visa's.

*End of House Staff Recruitment/Selection Policy*

## **SUPERVISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY (REV 07/2023)**

The following are the procedural requirements for graduate medical education pertaining to the supervision of House Staff. The provisions are applicable to all patient care services including, but not limited to: inpatient care, outpatient care, community and long-term care facilities, and the performance and interpretation of all diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

All BSW programs follow the Common Program Requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), which state that, “Although the attending physician is ultimately responsible for the care of the patient, every physician shares in the responsibility and accountability for their efforts in the provision of care. Effective programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, define, widely communicate and monitor a structured chain of responsibility and accountability as it relates to the supervision of all patient care. Supervision in the setting of graduate medical education provides safe and effective care to patients; ensures each resident's development of the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine; and establishes a foundation for continued professional growth.”

### **1. Roles and Responsibilities**

(VIA.A.2.a) Each patient must have an identifiable and appropriately credentialed and privileged attending physician (or licensed independent practitioner as specified by the applicable Review Committee) who is responsible and accountable for the patient's care.

- The information must be available to residents, faculty members, other members of the healthcare team and patients.
- Residents and faculty members must inform each patient of their respective roles in that patient's care when providing direct patient care.

(VIA.2.b) Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods. For many aspects of patient care, the supervising physician may be a more advanced resident or fellow. Other portions of care provided by the resident can be adequately supervised by the immediate availability of the supervising faculty member, fellow, or senior resident physician, either on site or by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities. Some activities require the physical presence of the

supervising faculty member. In some circumstance, supervision may include post-hoc review of resident-delivered care with feedback.

## 2. Graduate Levels of Responsibility

As part of their training program, House Staff should be given progressive responsibility for the care of the patient. The determination of a House Staff's ability to provide care to patients without a senior staff present, or to act in a teaching capacity, is based on the documented evaluation of the House Staff's clinical experience, judgment, knowledge and technical skill. It is the decision of the senior staff which activities the House Staff can perform within the context of the assigned levels of responsibility.

The senior staff is responsible for ensuring the overriding consideration be the safest and most effective care of the patient.

Supervision Levels: are defined as (*ACGME Core Requirement VI*)

1. Direct Supervision – The supervising physician is physically present with the resident during the key portions of the patient interactions or,
  - PGY-1 residents must initially be supervised directly, only as described in #1.
  - The Review Committee may describe the conditions under which PGY-1 residents progress to be supervised indirectly.
  - The supervising physician and/or patient is not physically present with the resident and the supervising physician is concurrently monitoring the patient care through appropriate telecommunication technology.
2. Indirect supervision - The supervising physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available to the resident for guidance and is available to provide appropriate direct supervision (Core)
3. Oversight – The supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered.
  - The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each resident must be assigned by the program director and faculty members.

Additional details of the supervision process:

- The program director must evaluate each resident's abilities based on specific criteria, guided by the Milestones.
- Faculty members functioning as supervising physicians must delegate portions of care to residents based on the needs of the patient and the skills of each resident.
  - Faculty supervision assignments must be of sufficient duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each resident and to delegate to the resident the appropriate level of patient care required by their patients.
- Senior residents or fellows should serve in a supervisory role to junior residents in recognition of their progress toward independence, based on the needs of each patient and the skills of the individual resident or fellow.

- Programs must set guidelines for circumstances and events in which residents must communicate with the supervising faculty member(s).
- Each resident must know the limits of their scope of authority and the circumstances under which the resident is permitted to act with conditional independence.
- Initially, PGY-1 residents must be supervised either directly or indirectly with direct supervision immediately available.

### 3. Documentation of Supervision of House Staff

- a. If a situation arises where the nursing staff is unsure of House Staff’s appropriate level of supervision, the nursing staff should contact the supervising senior staff directly.
- b. Documentation of House Staff’s required level of supervision should be documented in New Innovations (Residency Management Suite).

### 4. Emergency Situations

An "emergency" is defined as a situation where immediate care is necessary to preserve the life of, or to prevent serious impairment of the health of, a patient. In such situations, any House Staff assisted by medical personnel will, consistent with the informed consent, be permitted to do everything possible to save the life of a patient or to save a patient from serious harm. The appropriate senior staff must be contacted and apprised of the situation as soon as possible. The House Staff must document the nature of that discussion in the patient's record.

### 5. Medical Officer of the Day (MOD)

- a. House Staff who are board-certified or board-eligible may be privileged as independent practitioners for purposes of MOD coverage. Privileges sought and granted may only be those delineated within the general category for which the House Staff is board-certified or board-certifiable.
- b. House Staff who are appointed as such outside the scope of their training program must be fully licensed, credentialed and privileged for the duties they are expected to perform. In this capacity, they are not working under the auspices of a training program and must meet the requirements for appointments. Specialty privileges, which are within the scope of the House Staff’s training program, may not be granted.

*End of Supervision and Accountability Policy*

<b>WELL-BEING (REV 07/2023)</b>
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In the current healthcare environment, residents and faculty members are at increased risk for burnout and depression. Psychological, emotional and physical well-being are critical in the development of the competent, caring and resilient physician. Self-care is an important component of professionalism; it is also a skill that must be learned and nurtured in the context of other aspects of residency training. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, have the same responsibility to address

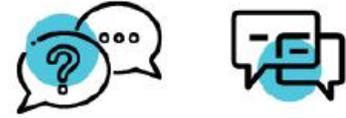
well-being as they do to evaluate other aspects of resident competence. Our Well-being Policy is intended to mirror that of the [BSWH Zero Harm for Patient Safety](#). The GME Community seeks to create an environment that is open, non-retaliatory, and residents should feel free to speak openly with any concern/issues they need to address. They may do so within the GME Office (this would include the DIO, GME Director, PD Council, designated Ombudsmen, and CLER Council).

This responsibility must include:

- Efforts to enhance the meaning that each resident finds in the experience of being a physician, including protecting time with patients, minimizing non-physician obligations, providing administrative support, promoting progressive autonomy and flexibility, and enhancing professional relationships.
- Attention to scheduling, work intensity and work compression that impacts resident well-being.
- Evaluating workplace safety data and addressing the safety of residents and faculty members.
- Policies and programs that encourage optimal resident and faculty member well-being; and Residents must be given the opportunity to attend medical, mental health and dental care appointments, including those scheduled during working hours.
- Attention to resident and faculty member burnout, depression and substance abuse. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must educate faculty members and residents in the identification of the symptoms of burnout, depression and substance abuse, including means to assist those who experience these conditions. Residents and faculty members must also be educated to recognize those symptoms in themselves and how to seek appropriate care. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must:
  - Encourage residents and faculty members to alert the program director or other designated personnel or programs when they are concerned that another resident, fellow or faculty member may be displaying signs of burnout, depression, substance abuse, suicidal ideation or potential for violence.
  - Provide access to appropriate tools for self-screening.
  - Provide access to confidential, affordable mental health assessment, counseling and treatment, including access to urgent and emergent care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- There are circumstances in which residents may be unable to attend work, including but not limited to fatigue, illness and family emergencies. Each program must have 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.



Talk with us.



**Maxine Trent**

Peer Support  
888-674-7337 office  
254-541-2696 cell

**Sharron Davis**

Well-Being Advisor  
254-724-2140  
254-718-7282

**Eric Hammer**

Chaplain  
254-724-0306 office  
254-231-1157 cell

**Alton McCallum**

External Counselor  
254-307-2495 office  
email: [alton@insight-cc.org](mailto:alton@insight-cc.org)

### Support

**Peer Support** is available to support you through unanticipated events and difficult times that occur in the workplace with understanding, compassion, and confidentiality. When you access Peer Support you will be paired with a peer who has been trained to walk alongside you during difficult seasons. Peer Support volunteers are standing by on the Peer Support Care Line 254-724-6544 or 888-674-PEER (7337) from 8a.m. to 6 p.m. daily to provide support. Virtual staff support sessions via Teams are available with Maxine Trent, LPC, LMFT, or with Connye Moore, LCSW. Both are trauma-trained counselors. <https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/livewell/emotional>

Our **Expanded Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** offers no-cost confidential assistance with a variety of concerns including counseling, legal assistance, parenting support, eldercare support, pet care support, identity theft assistance. They can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at 877-622-4327. EAP now has access to TalkSpace where employees can make video counseling session even more accessible (you will need a code from EAP to begin this service).

It's OK to not be OK. <https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/livewell/emotional>

### Faith

**Chaplains** can be reached at 254-724-0306 and are ready to provide confidential emotional/spiritual support to those of all faiths and those not associated with a faith tradition through numerous methods, including prayer. By compassionate service to people in chaotic or joyful times, chaplains attest to the sacredness of life. In-person and virtual prayer groups available by request, uplift blog, daylight devotions via email, volunteer opportunities, in-person and virtual sacred vocational classes.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWMissionandMinistry/SitePages/Pastoral-Care.aspx>

**Sacred Vocation Program** was created to increase joy in our work and connectivity with our teams, this self/professional-enrichment program helps participants connect their purpose to their work, as a special calling or "sacred vocation." It is delivered via video, Webex or site-based small group and contains:

- Chapter 1: What Gives Meaning to Our Lives,
- Chapter 2: Discovering Our Capacity to Heal and Harm,
- Chapter 3: Putting Purpose and Healing Skills Into Practice,
- Chapter 4: Living Your Purpose As An Emotional and

### **Spiritual Healer:**

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWMissionandMinistry/SitePages/Sacred-Vocation.aspx>

### **Wellness**

Our **BSW Well-Being in Medicine** strives to help healthcare providers by offering programs aimed at reducing burnout, enhancing resilience and wellness, building community and camaraderie, and restoring the joy associate with practicing medicine and caring for others. Equipping Medical Leaders, Lunch and Learn, Rejuvenate Series.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWWELLBEINGINMEDICINE>

The **Well-Being Index** is a confidential tool to help you better understand your overall well-being and areas of risk compared to other providers across the nation, as well as provide access to local and national resources. It is 100% anonymous. Your information and score are private and will not be shared with Baylor Scott & White Health – or anyone, for that matter. Set up your account at Well-Being Index Application ([mywellbeingindex.org](http://mywellbeingindex.org)) or go to download the mobile app from the App Store or Google Play. If prompted for an invitation code enter: BSWH Wellness.

**Headspace App** is available to all BSW employees and family members at no cost. Headspace is meditation made simple. The app teaches you life-changing skills of meditation and mindfulness in just a few minutes a day. Even better, BSW is providing employees and up to two family members (age 18+) free access to paid content!

[https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/wellbeing/thrive\\_activities-archive/headspace](https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/wellbeing/thrive_activities-archive/headspace)

A **Wellness Champion** is a role model for healthier behavior and lifestyle choices, and someone who is passionate about their own health with a desire to help improve the health of others. Champions value their own health and wellness, advocate for employee wellness, and serve as a role model for healthier behavior and lifestyle choices. Share their passion for their own health with a desire to help improve the health of others. <https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/livewell>

The Baylor Scott & White NCQA-certified **Wellness Coaching Program** provides employees with four free sessions and direct access to trained and experienced Wellness Coaches. With wellness coaching, participants gain guidance in the areas of nutrition, exercise, stress-management and behavioral changes to achieve optimal well-being of body, mind, and spirit.

<https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/livewell>

### **Assistance**

Access to a personalized **Family Concierge** at no cost through our partnership with Bright Horizons. For urgent or longer-term needs, the Family Concierge can coordinate and schedule the best solutions for child or elder care, pet care, housekeeping, adoption assistance, education enrichment and more.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWConnect/SitePages/Family-Concierge-%26-Enhance-Family-Supports.aspx>

### **Addiction**

We've partnered with **Enterhealth** to offer eligible employees and family members free, unlimited access to support and the opportunity for better addiction recovery. The **Enterhealth Connect portal** delivers Advanced Recovery Support learning modules. It's free, confidential and available 24/7 to all employees and their families.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWCLINICALPROVIDERWELLBEING/SitePages/Resources.aspx>

### ***Treatment***

The ***Texas Physician Health Program (TXPHP)*** provides confidential early intervention, assessment, treatment referral and post-treatment monitoring for health professionals who may not be able to practice safely due to an impairing or potentially impairing health condition.

<https://www.txphp.state.tx.us/Services.aspx#:~:text=The%20Texas%20Physician%20Health%20Program,or%20potentially%20impairing%20health%20condition.>



**Given the current complexities in healthcare, connection and the opportunity to build community are needed now perhaps more than ever.** During these challenging times we remain committed to the journey of restoring joy to the practice of medicine and devoted to investing in our most valuable asset: you!

**Rejuvenate Retreat** is a day-long event designed specifically for you.

**re·ju·ve·nate**  
 [rə'jooənə,nāt] verb  
*Restore to a like-new condition*

- **Fun.** Hear powerful and entertaining speakers on topics around your identity, values, profession, gratitude, and reconnecting with your why.
- **Fellowship.** Build community and connection amongst your peers – *without* ice breakers, hand holding or singing kumbaya.
- **Food.** Enjoy meals and time together. Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided.

Plus, you'll earn six hours of CME\* and one hour of ethics sponsored by BSWH without using PTO or CME/CNE days.

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**MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
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\*ACCREDITATION: The A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Medical Education of Baylor Scott & White Health is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

CREDIT DESIGNATION: The A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Medical Education of Baylor Scott & White Health designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

\*\*Meets Texas Requirement for Ethics/Professional Responsibility Credit.\*\*



*End of Well-Being Policy*

## FATIGUE MITIGATION (REV 07/2023)

Programs must:

- Educate all faculty members and residents to recognize the signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation;
- Educate all faculty members and residents in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes; and
- Encourage residents to use fatigue mitigation processes (i.e. power napping) to manage the potential negative effects of fatigue on patient care and learning.

Each program must ensure continuity of patient care if a resident is unable to perform their patient care responsibilities due to excessive fatigue. The program, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, must ensure adequate sleep facilities and safe transportation options for residents who may be too fatigued to safely return home. House Staff will be reimbursed for cost of transportation (i.e. taxi or ride-share) home when post-call and too tired to drive home. If necessary, GME will reimburse for the cost to return to the medical center to pick up a car or to report back to duty.

*End of Fatigue Mitigation Policy*

## CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES, TEAMWORK AND TRANSITIONS OF CARE (REV 07/2023)

**Clinical Responsibilities** – The clinical responsibilities for each resident must be based on PGY level, patient safety, resident ability, severity and complexity of patient illness/condition, and available support services.

**Teamwork** – Residents must care for patients in an environment that maximizes communication. This must include the opportunity to work as a member of effective inter-professional teams that are appropriate to the delivery of care in the specialty and larger health system, including other learners such as medical students.

**Transitions of Care** – Programs must design clinical assignments to optimize transitions in patient care, including their safety, frequency and structure; Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must ensure and monitor effective, structured hand-over processes to facilitate both continuity of care and patient safety; Programs must ensure that residents are competent in communicating with team members in the hand-over process; Programs and clinical sites must maintain and communicate schedules of attending physicians and residents currently responsible for care; Programs must ensure continuity of patient care in the event that a resident may be unable to perform their patient care responsibilities due to excessive fatigue, illness or family emergency. Programs are expected to have contingencies for both resident and faculty absences.

**Electronic Medical Record (EMR)** – The policy on EMR may be program-specific; however, it is expected that each resident at a minimum adhere to the [Baylor Scott & White Policy on EMR](#).

## COMPLETION OF OUTPATIENT CLINICAL MEDICAL RECORDS (REV 07/2023)

**Purpose:** This policy is designed to outline a process for improving outpatient medical records completion by Residents in compliance with the Baylor Scott & White Code of Conduct.

**Policy:** All residents shall complete medical records in accordance with timeliness, data element, and legibility standards. All required entries to a patient’s electronic medical record shall be made as soon as possible following the date of the patient’s visit, procedure, surgery, discharge, or death except in extenuating circumstances.

*Note: The term ‘residency’ is used interchangeably to represent both residents and fellows.*

### **A. Resident expectations for timely completion of “Open” clinic encounters**

1. Clinic encounters are defined as patient visits. Other EMR Inbox management responsibilities are not listed in this policy and are addressed by each individual residency program taking into consideration clinic goals.
2. The clinic has the goal of closing clinic encounters for 72 hours.
3. In order to allow faculty to review and sign off patients’ clinic visit encounters; residents must submit a complete visit note within 48 hours of encounter.
4. Residents are expected to complete “Critical” clinic visit encounters by the end of the day. For example: Patient sent to ER, Patient with Stat orders, Patient requiring following up within 48 hours.

### **B. Procedure for Notification of “Open” clinic encounters**

1. A detailed open medical record report will be run by the Office of the Clinic Director. Residency Program Director, Assistant Program Director and resident will be notified of outstanding open clinic encounters.
2. Open clinic encounter reports will indicate individual number of encounters, Patient MRN, Encounter type and Age of encounter.
3. Resident is responsible of closing Open encounters by the end of the following day after being notified.
4. Residents will notify the Program in writing if encountering difficulties closing specific charts. Residents will seek the help of faculty or Clinic manager to close those encounters.

### **C. Procedure for Enforcement of “Delinquent” clinic encounters**

1. Clinic encounters not completed by the end of the tenth day will be deemed as “Delinquent”.

2. The Residency Program will notify residents of delinquent encounters to the GME office. GME office will deliver a “Delinquent warning letter” to the resident. A copy of the letter is kept under the resident’s Academic file.
3. An action plan to remediate open encounters will be formulated by Program Director, including consideration of extending resident a “Temporary administrative suspension of clinical duties without pay” until encounters have been completed.
4. Residents with open clinic encounters of over 30 days and/or residents who have received 3 warning letters are reported to the Residency Program Clinical Competency Committee (CCC). CCC will meet to propose next remediation steps, including:
  - a. Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)
  - b. Remediation
  - c. Probation
  - d. Termination

*End of Completion of Outpatient Clinical Medical Records*

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION (REV 07/2023)**

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational and clinical experience opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal activities.

Each residency and fellowship program will comply with [ACGME](#), Institutional and Program Requirements regarding duty hours. All programs must monitor work hours on an ongoing basis. Additionally, monitoring of duty hours will be conducted by review of RRC Anonymous Surveys, monthly institutional duty hours’ reports and any incidents/occurrences brought to the attention of the GME Office. These formal policies must apply to all institutions to which the House Staff rotates.

Providing House Staff with a sound academic and clinical education must be carefully planned and balanced with concerns for patient safety and House Staff well-being. Each program must ensure the learning objectives of the program are not compromised by excessive reliance on House Staff to fulfill service obligations. Didactic and clinical education must have priority in the allotment of House Staff’s time and energies. Duty hour assignments must recognize that Faculty and House Staff collectively have responsibility for the safety and welfare of patients.

### 1. 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, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home and all moonlighting.

### 2. Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education

The program must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal well-being.

- a. Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods.
- b. 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 one-day-off-in-seven requirements.
- c. Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.
- d. Resident be scheduled for a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over four weeks). At home call cannot be assigned on these free days.

3. Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length

- a. Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.
- b. Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care and/or resident education.
- c. Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time.

4. Clinical and Educational Work Hour Exceptions

- a. In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:
  - i. to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient;
  - ii. humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or,
  - iii. to attend unique educational events

**(These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.)**

5. Moonlighting

Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program and must not interfere with the resident's fitness for work nor compromise patient safety.

- a. Because residency education is a full-time endeavor, Moonlighting is at the discretion of the Program Director, and the Program Director must ensure that moonlighting does not interfere with the resident's fitness for work, nor compromise patient safety.
- b. Time spent by House Staff in internal and external moonlighting must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly work hour limit, logged into New Innovations by resident/fellow and be monitored by the program via [New Innovations](#).
- c. PGY-1 residents are not permitted to moonlight.

6. In-House Night Float

- a. Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off-in seven requirements.
- b. The maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float and maximum number of months of night float per year, is specified by the Review Committee.

7. 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).

8. At-Home Call

Time spent in the hospital by House Staff on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly work hour 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 duty when averaged over four weeks. Activities such as reading about the next day's case, studying, or research activities do not count towards the 80- hour weekly limit.

- a. At-home call must not be as frequent, or taxing, as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time or each House Staff.
- b. House Staff 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.

*End of Clinical Experience and Education Policy*

<b>RESIDENT EVALUATION (REV 07/2023)</b>
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Each residency/fellowship program must utilize [New Innovations](#) for implementing their evaluation of House Staff, the faculty and the residency/fellowship program. Evaluation must be documented at the completion of the assignment and/or rotation.

**Feedback and Evaluation:**

- Faculty members must directly observe, evaluate, and frequently provide feedback on resident performance during each rotation or similar educational assignment.
- For block rotations of greater than three months in duration, evaluation must be documented at least every three months.
- Longitudinal experiences, such as continuity clinic in the context of other clinical responsibilities, must be evaluated at least every six months and at completion.
- The evaluations of a resident's performance must be accessible for review by the resident.

**Final Evaluation**

- The program director must provide a final evaluation for each resident upon completion of the program.
- The specialty-specific Milestones, and when applicable the specialty-specific Case Logs, must be used as tools to ensure residents are able to engage in autonomous practice upon completion of the program.
- Must become part of the resident's permanent record maintained by the institution, and must be accessible for review in accordance with institutional policy;
- Verify the resident has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors, necessary to enter autonomous practice,
- Consider recommendations from the Clinical Competency Committee; and,
- Be shared with the resident upon completion of the program.

The program director must appoint the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC). The Program Director has final responsibility for resident evaluation and promotion decisions.

At a minimum, the Clinical Competency Committee must be composed of three members of the program faculty. The program director may appoint additional members of the Clinical Competency Committee.

- The additional members must be physician faculty members from the same program, or other programs or other health professionals who have extensive contact and experience with the program's residents.
- Chief Residents who have completed core residency programs in their specialty, and are eligible for specialty board certification, may be members of the CCC.
- There must be a written description of the responsibilities of the CCC.
- The Clinical Competency must:
  - Review all resident evaluations semi-annually.
  - Determine each resident's progress on achievement of the specialty-specific Milestones; and,
  - Meet prior to the residents' semi-annual evaluations and advise the program director regarding each resident's progress.

**If a House Staff performs unsatisfactorily, notification must be timely. It is the responsibility of the House Staff to follow up with any questions that he/she may have regarding the evaluation.**

#### Faculty Evaluation

The program must have a process to evaluate each faculty member's performance as it relates to the educational program at least annually. These evaluations should include a review of the faculty's clinical teaching abilities, commitment to the educational program, clinical knowledge, professionalism and scholarly activities. This evaluation must include written, anonymous, and confidential evaluations by the residents. Faculty members must be provided feedback on their contribution to the mission of the program. Results of the faculty educational evaluations should be incorporated into program-wide faculty development plans.

## Program Evaluation and Improvement

The program director must appoint the Program Evaluation Committee (PEC).

Program Evaluation Committee:

- Must be composed of at least two program faculty members and should include at least one resident;
- Must have a written description of its responsibilities; and
- Those responsibilities must include:
  - acting as an advisor to the program director, through program oversight;
  - Review of the program's self-determined goals and progress toward meeting them;
  - guiding ongoing program improvement, including development of new goals, based upon outcomes; and,
  - review of current operating environment to identify strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats as related to the program's mission and aims.

The Program Evaluation Committee should consider the following elements in its assessment of the program; must monitor and track each of the following areas:

- Curriculum;
- Outcomes from prior Annual Program Evaluation(s);
- ACGME letters of notification, including citations, Areas for Improvement, and comments;
- Quality and safety of patient care;
- Well-being;
- Recruitment and retention;
- Workforce diversity;
- Engagement in quality improvement and patient safety;
- Scholarly activity;
- ACGME Resident and Faculty Surveys' and
- Written evaluations of the program.
- Aggregate resident:
  - achievement of the Milestones;
  - in-training examinations;
  - board pass and certification rates; and,
  - graduate performance.
- Aggregate faculty:
  - evaluation; and
  - professional development.

The PEC must evaluate the program's mission and aims, strengths, areas for improvement, and threats.

The annual review, including the action plan, must:

- Be distributed to and discussed with the members of the teaching faculty and the residents; and,

- Be submitted to the DIO.

The program must complete a Self-Study prior to its 10-Year Accreditation Site Visit. A summary of the Self-Study must be submitted to the DIO.

### **Patient Safety – Culture of Safety**

A culture of safety requires continuous identification of vulnerabilities and a willingness to transparently deal with them. An effective organization has formal mechanisms to assess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of its personnel toward safety in order to identify areas for improvement.

The program, its faculty, residents, and fellows must actively participate in patient safety systems and contribute to a culture of safety.

The program must have a structure that promotes safe, interprofessional, team-based care.

*End of Resident Evaluation*

## **PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE/CONDUCT (REV 07/2023)**

BSW House Staff will conduct themselves professionally and perform their assigned duties with integrity, commitment, skill and efficiency consistent with the highest principles of medicine.

### **I. Professional Competence**

Professional competence will be questioned if the House Staff demonstrates academic deficiencies in knowledge, skills and attitudes or clinical performance.

### **II. Professional Conduct**

Conduct of the House Staff will be questioned for commitments of unlawful acts, violations of institutional codes of conduct, breach of professional ethics or otherwise endangering patient health or safety and endangering any BSWH employee. Examples include, but are not limited to the following.

- Violation of state or federal law
- Forgery, alteration or misuse of hospital documents or records
- Conduct that significantly interferes with hospital teaching, research or administration of House Staff's education
- Illegal use, possession and/or illegal sale of drug, narcotic or other controlled substances as defined in the Texas Controlled Substance Act
- Inappropriate or unprofessional behavior toward colleagues, hospital staff, students, patients or families of patients

### **III. Failure to comply with professional competence and/or conduct may result in disciplinary action.**

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION/ DUE PROCESS IV.D.1.B (REV 07/2023)**

House Staff whose professional competence or conduct is not satisfactory will be subject to disciplinary action initiated by the Program Director and endorsed by the Division Director and/or Department Chairman.

House Staff who wishes to dispute any disciplinary action taken against him/her may initiate the appeal process described in Section 2 of this policy. House Staff may not utilize the Grievance/Problem-Solving Procedure to dispute disciplinary action.

**1. Initiation of Disciplinary Action**

The House Staff in question will meet with at least two senior staff members of the department responsible for his/her training. One of the departmental representatives should be the Program Director, unless prohibited by extenuating circumstances. During the meeting, a written document that includes a detailed, itemized description of any issues regarding behavior, patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal/communication skills, professionalism, and/or system-based practice will be supplied to the resident/fellow. The written material(s) should describe:

- a. The date of the meeting
- b. Nature of concern(s)
- c. Persons in attendance
- d. Disciplinary action to be taken which may include:
  - Remediation
  - Probation
  - Delayed and/or Non-advancement in academic year
  - Suspension
  - Dismissal (including non-renewal of contract)
- e. Duration of disciplinary action (if other than dismissal) or effective date (if dismissal)
- f. Requirements for successfully completing any period of remediation or probation, including a description of methods and conditions of enhanced monitoring of the House Staff's conduct and/or clinical/ academic activities, specific time frame to meet requirement(s) of Disciplinary Action Plan. Enhanced monitoring should include (1) specific goals/objectives developed for the House Staff and (2) periodic, written assessments of the House Staff during the specified period.

Discussions and written documents pertaining to the issues should center on specific behaviors and/or areas of deficiencies.

A copy of documentation supplied to the House Staff shall be marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and forwarded to the Designated Institutional Official ("DIO"). All original documentation is to be maintained with the GME training program.

**2. Appeal Process**

A review of the disciplinary action may be initiated by either (a) the House Staff or DIO. Such a review must be initiated (as described below) within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the meeting as specified in Section 1(a) above.

**a. Review Initiated by DIO**

The DIO may initiate a review process of the disciplinary action if the action is felt to be inappropriate. In such cases, within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the meeting as specified in Section 1(a) above, the DIO shall appoint a committee that consists of a program director or associate program director from another program, a department head from a different department or designee, a chief resident from another program, a peer selected by the House Staff who is the subject of the disciplinary action and the GME Ombudsman to review the circumstances leading to the imposition of the disciplinary action and make recommendations. The committee may request the House Staff, the House Staff's program director or others who have interacted with the House Staff meet with the committee to discuss the documented issues. The committee's recommendations will be reported to the DIO. The DIO will make a final decision regarding whether the disciplinary action will stand, be revoked, or be modified in some manner.

**b. Review Initiated by House Staff**

If the House Staff disagrees with the disciplinary action, he/she should submit a written request for review to the DIO within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the meeting as specified in Section 1(a) above. Upon receipt of the House Staff's written request for review, the DIO shall communicate to the CMO the circumstances of disciplinary action and its current status. The CMO shall appoint a committee composed of the membership of the committee described in Section 2(a) above. The DIO will coordinate the review process and may function as a non-voting member of the committee. The committee will be charged with reviewing the circumstances leading to the imposition of disciplinary action. The committee may request the House Staff, the House Staff's Program Director or others who have interacted with the House Staff meet with the committee to discuss the documented issues. The committee's recommendations will be reported to the DIO and/or the CMO. The CMO will make a final decision regarding whether the disciplinary action will stand, be revoked, or be modified in some manner.

*End of Disciplinary Action/ Due Process Policy*

**GRIEVANCE/ PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCEDURE IV.E (REV 07/2023)**

BSWMCRR encourages House Staff to bring to the attention of their Program Director, Associate Program Director(s) concerns or complaints about work-related conditions. To aid in prompt and constructive problem solving, House Staff shall be provided with the opportunity to present such information through a formal procedure. *NOTE: The grievance/problem-solving and confidential grievance procedure as described here is not to be used by a House Staff to dispute disciplinary action that has been initiated against him/her.*

Many problems result from misunderstandings or lack of information and can generally be resolved by discussing them with the Program Director.

If verbal discussion with the Program Director does not result in a satisfactory solution to the issue, the House Staff may submit the problem in written form to the Program Director as soon as possible. The Program Director will meet again with the House Staff to discuss the issue and will present a written reply to the House Staff as soon as possible.

If the House Staff is not satisfied after receiving the Program Director's written reply, the House Staff may request a meeting with the Department Chief or designee and provide (1) his/her written complaint to the Program Director describing the issue, (2) the Program Director's written reply and (3) a written explanation as to why the House Staff believes the Program Director's reply is not satisfactory. This documentation must be submitted to the Department Chief within two weeks from the date of the Program Director's written reply to the resident/fellow. The Department Chief will respond in writing after interviewing the resident/fellow. The Department Chief may choose to interview other individuals including the Program Director.

If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved at this point, the resident/fellow may pursue further action by providing copies of all written material and a written response to the Department Chief's letter to the DIO within two weeks of the date of the Department Chief's written reply. The DIO will further evaluate the complaint and may choose to form an ad hoc committee consisting of no fewer than three (3) individuals to review the issues. The committee membership should include a House Staff Ombudsman. The committee shall review all pertinent information and conduct interviews necessary to reach a decision about the grievance. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the DIO and the Chief Medical Officer for final resolution. House Staff who initiated the grievance will be notified of the outcome as well.

All information concerning a House Staff's problem/complaint should be received in confidence, and the issue should be discussed only with those involved in the process or who can provide necessary information.

#### Confidential Grievance Procedure

At times, the House Staff may have concerns that are outside the Program Director's jurisdiction or for which the House Staff wishes not to include the Program Director or Department Chief. The House Staff may communicate these concerns to the Ombudsman who may take the problem directly to the DIO. The DIO may follow the aforementioned procedure of choosing an ad hoc committee to review the concerns and reach a resolution.

## EMPLOYEE HEALTH (REV 07/2023)

As a condition of employment, BSWH requires the following annually which are required at the same time (Oct-Nov):

- Influenza vaccine
- TB Screening
- Flu Vaccination
  - a) Free influenza vaccines are offered at work – locations, dates and times will be posted on [BSWconnect.com/Flu](https://www.bswconnect.com/Flu).
  - b) If you get your influenza vaccine outside of Baylor Scott & White – Temple (i.e., VA, Santa Fe Clinic, or a local pharmacy), you **must** complete the [Flu Proof of Vaccine form](#) and attach documentation of the vaccination administration. Please note that even if your flu is documented in [My Chart](#) and/or completed during your Thrive visit, documentation is still required to be sent to EH (It is not automatically sent to EH).
  - c) If you plan to apply for an **exemption**, you must complete the appropriate form and submit it for approval before the influenza vaccination deadline.

Other required immunizations and other EH requirements (completed as part of the On-boarding process) include:

- Mask Fit (must be completed annually)
- Hep B
- TDAP
- MMR
- Varicella

For the most updated location of where Employee Health is located, please reach their team by phone at 254-724-2934 or email at [HREMPLOYEEHEALTH@BSWHealth.org](mailto:HREMPLOYEEHEALTH@BSWHealth.org).

Any BSWH employee not in compliance with the Flu Vaccine, places their employment (residency) at risk.

### **Occupational Safety / Safe Choice**

If you experience a work-related injury (i.e., needle stick), please report to your supervisor immediately.

There is a process in place to ensure you get the appropriate medical care dependent upon the incident.

For further information, please visit:

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWEmployeeHealth/SitePages/Safe-Choice.aspx>

Or you may contact the Safe Choice Department On-Call Person at 1-877-415-0005. Select option 5 if you have questions. (Alternate number, 254-724-4402, Mobile, 469-544-5871 / Theresa Ming).

## Parking

[Baylor Scott & White Parking Policy](#) and [Baylor Scott & White campus parking map](#)

All House Staff will be issued a blue parking sticker. Blue parking stickers are for “Blue” Employee/General Staff Parking Lots at Baylor Scott & White. Parking in any of the Patient/Visitor Lots is never permitted unless the House Staff is being seen as a patient. Parking Citations are sent to the GME Office who will communicate any citations to the Program Director and/or Program Administrator. If the citation is felt to be an error, please inform the [Director of GME](#). Please be advised if you receive two parking citations your car’s tire may get booted, if you receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> parking citation, your car will get towed at your expense.

When utilizing the services of Scott & White Health as a patient, House Staff may park in patient parking spaces. An [Exception to Parking Policy Card](#) must be placed on the dashboard visible to a security officer indicating he/she is at Baylor Scott & White as a patient. Or, at a minimum place a note on the dashboard/driver’s side alerting Security to why you are parked in a patient-designated area, include date/time.

All House Staff vehicles must be registered with the Security Department within five (5) calendar days of employment and changes in vehicle status (new license tags, additions, deletions) must be reported to the Security Department within five (5) calendar days. The parking sticker must be displayed on the exterior of the rear window, lower left corner. If the vehicle is a convertible or has removable top, the permit is placed on the lower right-hand side of the windshield. Only one parking space per resident is to be used.

Vehicles must be parked in clearly marked/designated parking spaces. Fire Lane or Handicapped Parking violations are under the jurisdiction of the Round Rock Fire Department and the Round Rock Police Department and will be enforced by them respectively.

The Public Safety Department Intranet site is available for required forms, maps and institutional parking policies. Any questions, problems, or concerns regarding parking or the parking policy may be referred to the Security Department at extension 24-2344. You can access it at the [Public Safety](#) website:

## Medical Licensure

To participate in a BSW graduate medical education program, House Staff is required to hold either a Texas Medical Board (TMB) Physician-In-Training Permit or a Texas [Full] Medical License. It is the **responsibility of the House Staff** to make sure they maintain a current TMB PIT **or** TMB Medical License.

### A Physician-In-Training (PIT) Permit:

- Must be applied for online by each House Staff at least 90 days prior to the anticipated start of the House Staff’s postgraduate training. **NOTE: BSWH-GME will pay for your PIT.**
- Is issued with effective dates corresponding with the beginning and ending dates of the House Staff’s training program as reported to the board by the BSW TMB liaison.
  - If an extension is required, the House Staff is responsible to alert the program administrator as well as the GME Office.
- Is relative to the program by which the House Staff was hired; it must be changed when **House Staff transfers between programs**. It is the **responsibility of the House Staff to make sure this transfer occurs by letting the GME Office and/or their program**

**administrator aware (Program Administrator would communicate the transfer to the GME Office).**

- It is the **responsibility of the resident** to contact the TMB when they are transferred to a new hospital.
- Baylor Scott & White is responsible for the initial cost of the PIT; however, if House Staff has let their PIT expire, they are not only responsible for renewal costs, but may be suspended from their duties.

A Texas Medical License:

Refer to the Texas Medical Board. Board Rules.

<http://www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/laws-main-page>

Any House Staff wanting to forfeit their PIT for a Full Medical License may do so at their own expense.

Program Directors shall report in writing to the executive director of the Texas Medical Board the following circumstances within thirty (30) days of the director's knowledge for any physician-in-training permit holder:

- (1) if a physician did not begin the training program due to failure to graduate from medical school as scheduled or for any other reason(s);
- (2) if a physician has been or will be absent from the program for more than 21 consecutive days (excluding vacation leave, family or military leave) and the reason(s) why;
- (3) if a physician has been arrested after the permit holder begins training in the program;
- (4) if a physician poses a continuing threat to the public welfare as defined under Tex. Occ. Code §151.002(a) (2), as amended;
- (5) if the program has taken final action that adversely affects the physician's status or privileges in a program for a period longer than 30 days;
- (6) if the program has suspended the physician from the program;
- (7) if the program has requested termination or terminated the physician from the program, requested or accepted withdrawal of the physician from the program or requested or accepted resignation of the permit holder from the program and the action is final.

Duties of PIT Holders to Report:

(a) Failure of any PIT holder to comply with the provisions of this chapter or the Medical Practice Act §160.002 and §160.003 may be grounds for disciplinary action as an administrative violation against the PIT holder.

(b) The PIT holder shall report in writing to the executive director of the board the following circumstances within thirty days of their occurrence:

- (1) the opening of an investigation or disciplinary action taken against the PIT holder by any licensing entity other than the TMB;
- (2) an arrest, fine (over \$250\*), charge or conviction of a crime, indictment, imprisonment, placement on probation or receipt of deferred adjudication; and
- (3) diagnosis or treatment of a physical, mental or emotional condition, which has impaired or could impair the PIT holder's ability to practice medicine.

A copy of the medical license or current basic permit must be provided to the GME program administrator. If a name change occurs during the House Staff's training, the House Staff must contact the GME Office and provide proper documentation reflecting such name change. It is the responsibility of the House Staff to contact the Texas Medical Board and get an updated PIT with their corrected name. Any House Staff allowing his/her license to expire or who are no longer licensable, or who fail to take appropriate action to renew their license, will be immediately relieved of their duties, and may be dismissed. House Staff are required to provide a current copy of his/her license to their program administrator.

Permit holders or program directors with questions about reporting requirements can contact Pre-Licensure, Registration and Consumer Services at (512) 305-7030 or (800) 248-4062 within Texas, by fax at (888) 550-7516 or by email at [pit.applications@tmb.state.tx.us](mailto:pit.applications@tmb.state.tx.us).

### **Pagers**

House Staff may be issued local pagers. House Staff may request long-range pagers. This may be done through your program administrator and if the training program requires House Staff to travel to outlying clinics beyond the BSW RR pager range. If a pager is lost or destroyed, it will be replaced at the expense of the House Staff.

All pagers must be listed on the hospitals on call list / Q-Genda.

### **Life Support**

Depending upon your [sub]specialty, you may be required to obtain/maintain life support certifications including, but not limited to, Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) prior to employment at Baylor Scott & White. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) AS DIRECTED BY the American Heart Association. If House Staff are unable to acquire life support certification ATLS prior to employment at Baylor Scott & White, the course will be offered for a fee and, therefore, not reimbursable if taken outside of Baylor Scott & White. Your program may require the Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP), consult with your program administrator. It is the House Staff's responsibility to maintain certification. Documentation of current certification is required for GME House Staff personnel file, and it **must be American Heart Association (AHA)-accredited**.

***Off-Service House Staff and Visiting House Staff must have current life support certifications as required by specialty prior to start of rotation.***

## **REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS BY SPECIALTY**

SPECIALTY	BLS	ACLS	PALS	ATLS	NEONATAL RESUSCITATION	FCCS
(Certification Length)	2 yrs	2 yrs	2 yrs	4 yrs	2 yrs	4 yrs
Cardiology	X	X				
SPECIALTY	BLS	ACLS	PALS	ATLS	NEONATAL RESUSCITATION	FCCS
Family Medicine	X	X	X	X	X	
Gastroenterology	X	X				
Internal Medicine	X	X				X
Intv'l Cardiology	X	X				
Clinical Informatics	*please refer to specialty requirements*					

### **RQI (Resuscitation Quality Improvement)**

<https://bswhctx.rqi1stop.com/>

Click LOGIN button at top right

Then click the FORGOT PASSWORD button

Enter Email and system will send a password to use

**Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)** Cheryl Loughran [Cheryl.Loughran@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Cheryl.Loughran@BSWHealth.org)

### **Testing**

Consultation for educational testing is available. Please contact the GME Office, 509-3412, for further information.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINARS (Note changes have been made to reflect the move to virtual conferences.)**

All House Staff are required to satisfy the institutional policy on Risk Management education. Below are the requirements dependent upon your PGY-level.

#### **All Residents and Fellows (at all levels)**

Total of two Risk Management Modules. Any combination of two that include Virtual Conferences that are approved Risk Management approved presentations or AMA General Competency Sessions that are approved for Risk Management.

#### **AMA General Competency Education**

- **Login into:** <https://cme.ama-assn.org/gme-competency>  
**New User: A "Welcome" email will be sent to you from the AMA.**  
**Temporary first use only password: gcep** Please change after initial login, or if you have established an AMA password previously, sign in using that or click "forgot username or password" on the sign in page if you do not recall their password.
- **Once you are logged in, go to "Library" for a listing of modules. Your program administrator will provide you with the list of modules acceptable for Risk Management credit.**

For additional information, contact Taylor Chadwick @ 512-509-3412 or [Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org)

You may also reach out directly to the AMA via the GME Competency Education Program at the AMA. Email: [gcep@ama-assn.org](mailto:gcep@ama-assn.org) or phone: (312) 464-4518

### **Religious Accommodations**

It is the policy of TAMHSC-COM/BSW residency and fellowship programs to accommodate, whenever possible, requests from House Staff to honor religious celebratory rites.

Requests should be made well in advance, and all efforts will be made to structure call schedules to accommodate those requests. However, to ensure high-quality patient care and patient safety, such accommodations cannot be guaranteed. House Staff, with the approval of their Chief Resident and/or Program Director, may elect to plan with their peers to schedule observances of religious holy days. House Staff should use PTO (Paid Time Off) for time away from patient care duties more than the number of holidays observed by the institution.

### **Disability Accommodations**

BSW is committed to providing equal opportunities for qualified House Staff with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

An otherwise qualified House Staff with a disability is defined as any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities, who has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment and is otherwise capable of performing and participating in a residency/fellowship program with reasonable accommodation.

BSW may take steps to provide reasonable and necessary auxiliary educational aids to otherwise qualified residents/fellows with a disability. Reasonable accommodations may be made unless doing so would cause undue hardship on the operations of the hospital/clinic, an alteration or modification to a program to the extent that it changes the fundamental nature of that program or a direct threat to the safety of the individual or others. Auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to, various methods of making orally delivered materials reasonably available to residents/fellows certified as having a disability by a licensed physician; BSW is not required to provide attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers or interpreters for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature. Academic requirements essential to the residency/fellowship program being pursued by the resident/fellow or that relate directly to licensing requirements may not be modified.

A request for accommodation may be made at any time during residency training. In order for the resident to receive maximum benefit from his/her residency training time, requests for accommodation should be made in writing to the program director as early in the training process as possible. Upon receipt of the request, the program director is expected to meet with the House Staff to acknowledge the request and explain the process.

The Program Director, the Designated Institutional Official, and if appropriate, the GME designated Human Resources Business Partner, will coordinate with the resident/fellow to determine whether the requested accommodation would be effective, reasonable and enable the resident to perform the essential functions of the position and achieve the essential educational goals and program objectives, or make a good faith effort to negotiate another accommodation.

All medical-related information will be kept confidential and maintained separately from other resident records. However, key faculty and program administrators may be advised of information necessary to make the determinations they are required to make regarding a request for accommodation. Employee Health personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if the disability might require emergency treatment or if any specific procedures are needed in case of fire or other evacuations. Government officials investigating compliance with the ADA may also be provided relevant information as requested.

Once an individual has been approved for specific accommodations, and has subsequently received those accommodations, that individual should be held to the same essential performance standards as all other trainees. Focus should be on the trainee's performance in all evaluations. Written evaluations should not mention disabilities or accommodations for disabilities in any way. TAMHSC-COM/BSW does not notify potential residency or fellowship programs or other employers about an individual's disabilities without specific permission from the trainee.

### **Visiting Residents**

In support of the educational mission of the institution, House Staff in good standing from an accredited training program outside Baylor Scott & White may be accepted for clinical rotations integrated into one of the Baylor Scott & White-sponsored residency or fellowship programs for medical education. A "clinical rotation" is defined as participation in patient care and educational activities under the supervision of Baylor Scott & White clinical faculty members for the purposes of acquiring medical knowledge and experience applicable toward satisfaction of educational requirements. The presence of visiting residents or fellows must not interfere with the appointed House Staffs' education.

House Staff wishing to participate in a clinical rotation at Baylor Scott & White should visit the [Graduate Medical Education section](#) of the BSWHealth.med website. All the necessary forms and information, as well as contact information, can be found there. Some programs may require a personal interview or additional documentation prior to acceptance. Each program will communicate directly with the applicant concerning the application and review process. Visiting residents must also have current life support certifications as required by specialty prior to start of rotation. GME Administration Office will process paperwork, badge requests, etc.

An appropriate affiliation agreement and/or program letter of agreement must be finalized **prior** to beginning a rotation at Baylor Scott & White; a copy of the agreement must be forwarded to GME Visiting Resident Program Administrator. .

Visiting residents must adhere to the policies and procedures of Texas A&M Health Science Center-COM and at a Baylor Scott & White affiliated medical center.

*End of Employee Health*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CREDENTIALING OF PHYSICIANS AND HOUSE STAFF FOR BEDSIDE PROCEDURES (REV 07/2023)</b></p>
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The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each resident must be assigned by the program director and faculty members.

1. The Program Director must evaluate each resident's abilities based on specific criteria, guided by the Milestones.
2. Faculty members functioning as supervising physicians must delegate portions of care to residents based on the needs of the patient and the skills of each resident.
3. Each resident has the responsibility of knowing the limits of their scope of authority, and the circumstances under which the resident is permitted to act with conditional independence. When rotating on another service, you should let your supervisor know your level of ability.
4. Residents' credentialing status (approved procedures' status) is reviewed at the semi-annual program Clinical Competence Committee (CCC) meeting. New Innovations may be used to verify clinical procedures. New Innovations/Credentialing will be updated by the Program Director and/or Core Faculty as resident successfully demonstrates competence in said procedure(s).
5. All Clinical Residents and Fellows must participate in a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) training session once during the course of their residency/fellowship. To enroll, go to PeoplePlace, click on the "Learning" tile, in the search box, type in Root Cause Analysis. Two options will come up, Surgery and Medicine. Click on desired session.
6. **CLABSI (Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infection)**  
Below programs are for **all** years of training (**NOTE**: CLABSI training need only be completed once during entire residency/fellowship.)
  - Anesthesiology
  - Cardiology
  - CT-Anesthesiology
  - Emergency Medicine
  - Electrophysiology
  - General Surgery
  - Internal Medicine
  - Interventional Radiology
  - Neonatology
  - Nephrology
  - Pediatrics
  - Pulmonary/Critical Care
  - Vascular Surgery

ONLY PGY-1: Otolaryngology, Plastic Surgery, Orthopedics and Urology

PGY-3, PGY-5: Radiology

CLABSI training is two parts: (1) Learning Module and (2) Checklist/Simulation. Completion of both parts is required before participating in clinical central line observation/training or operation.

To enroll, go to PeoplePlace, Click on the "Learning" tile and type in CLABSI in the Search box, look for "Central Line Insertion: Resident, Fellow" and choose appropriate session. Check with your program administrator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> part which is a Simulation.

*End of Credentialing of Physicians and House Staff for Bedside Procedures*

### **Overview**

Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and Designated Institutional Official (DIO) provide an accounting to institutional governance of the training of residents and fellows. The DIO in collaboration with GMEC will have authority and responsibility to provide oversight and administration of each ACGME accredited programs as well as for ensuring compliance with ACGME Institutional, Common and specialty/subspecialty-specific program requirements. A written statement, reviewed, dated and signed at least once every five years by DIO, representative of the sponsoring institutions senior administration and a representative of the Governing Body, must document the Sponsoring Institution's GME mission.

### **Structure and attendance**

The GMEC has oversight of all the ACGME accredited Programs at Baylor Scott and White - Round Rock, with the DIO service as the Chair of the GMEC. DIO will be appointed by the sponsoring institution. All program directors and associate program directors of the ACGME accredited programs will be Voting members of the GMEC. If there is no associate program director for a program, that respective program director may choose one of their core faculty to be voting member of the GMEC. GME Quality Director will also serve as a voting member of the GMEC. Two peer selected resident/ fellows from the house staff council will serve as voting members of the GMEC. These trainee members are selected by all trainees during the bimonthly house staff council meeting held at the end of the academic year. Resident/ fellow members should have completed at least one year of local training and have at least one more year of training left. Institutional coordinator will also serve as a voting member. Program coordinators and Chief Medical Officer will serve as non-voting members of the GMEC. Wellness subspecialty faculty with special interest in resident/ fellow wellness will be appointed as a voting member of the GMEC.

All subcommittees appointed by the GMEC must also include a peer-selected resident/fellow.

The GMEC will meet at a minimum every quarter but preferably every two months.

GMEC to achieve these objectives will review at least once annually ACGME accreditation status and citations for the institution and the programs, ACGME resident/fellow surveys results, results from CLER review, anonymous peoples survey by residents/ fellows, recruitment outcome and annual program evaluation reports for each program. In addition, GMEC will also review policies listed in the House staff handbook and trainee benefits including pay before the start of the academic year.

The Quorum must include 50% of members and at least one resident/fellow representation for voting.

The GMEC will use subcommittees for specific tasks to effectively carry out its duties. Subcommittee members are selected by the voting members of the GMEC and appointed by the DIO. Subcommittees are required to have a peer selected resident/fellow. Subcommittee chairs must report to the GMEC at least every 6 months. All the recommendations from the subcommittee are reviewed and voted on by

the full GMEC before implementation. At our June 2023 GMEC meeting three sub-committee's and its members were voted by GMEC to form AIR, Policy and CLER committees. All sub-committees have peer selected trainee member representation and report to the full GMEC at every meeting. Quality faculty representative for the GMEC over sees the monthly GME quality and patient safety lecture series for the residents/fellows that include reviewing patient safety/ quality data and education on new quality initiatives for the region. Well-being chair over sees all the wellbeing initiatives for the GME and have regularly scheduled lectures/ workshops to help with resident wellness. GMEC is able to achieve all these functions with dedicated members and meeting every two months.

### **Meeting Minutes**

GMEC meeting minutes and attendance of members will be recorded. GMEC will maintain meeting minutes that document execution of all the required GMEC functions and responsibilities. They will be accessible to all GMEC members for review.

### **GMEC Responsibilities**

At the beginning of the Academic year the GMEC will review the GMEC grid that lists all the responsibilities of the GMEC for the next year and the timeline of activities based on the current ACGME institutional requirements and requirements of the GME. This is voted and approved by the GMEC.

GMEC will provide oversight of -

- ACGME accreditation and recognition statuses of the Sponsoring Institution and each of its ACGME-accredited programs Annually
- The quality of the GME learning and working environment within the Sponsoring Institution, each of its ACGME-accredited programs, and its participating sites
- The quality of educational experiences in each ACGME-accredited program that leads to measurable achievement of educational outcomes as identified in the ACGME Common and specialty-/subspecialty-specific Program
- The ACGME-accredited program(s)' annual program evaluation(s) and Self-Study
- ACGME-accredited programs' implementation of institutional policy(ies) for vacation and leaves of absence, including medical, parental, and caregiver leaves of absence, Annually
- All processes related to reductions and closures of individual ACGME-accredited programs, major participating sites, and the Sponsoring Institution
- The provision of summary information of patient safety reports to residents, fellows, faculty members, and other clinical staff members. At a minimum, this oversight must include verification that such summary information is being provided.
- Duty hour reports/violations

GMEC will review and approve -

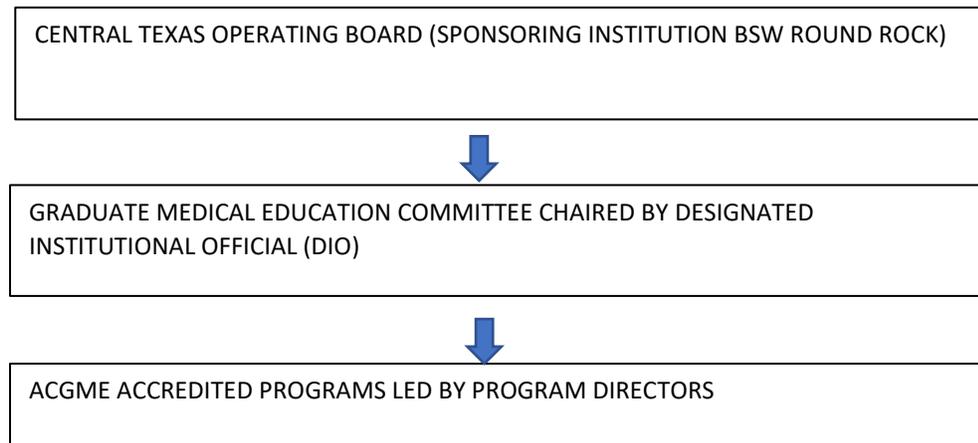
- Institutional GME policies and procedures
- GMEC subcommittee actions that address required GMEC responsibilities

- Annual recommendations to the Sponsoring Institution’s administration regarding resident/fellow stipends and benefits
- Applications for ACGME accreditation of new programs
- Requests for permanent changes in resident/fellow complement
- Major changes in each of its ACGME-accredited programs’ structure or duration of education, including any change in the designation of a program’s primary clinical site
- Additions and deletions of each of its ACGME-accredited programs’ participating sites
- Appointment of new program directors
- Progress reports requested by a Review Committee
- Responses to Clinical Learning Environment Review (CLER) reports
- Requests for exceptions to clinical and educational work hour requirements
- Voluntary withdrawal of ACGME program accreditation or recognition
- Requests for appeal of an adverse action by a Review Committee
- Appeal presentations to an ACGME Appeals Panel
- Exceptionally qualified candidates for resident/fellow appointments who do not satisfy the Sponsoring Institution’s resident/fellow eligibility policy and/or resident/fellow eligibility requirements in the Common Program Requirements.
- Ombudsman appointment

Under the leadership of the DIO, the GMEC will identify and monitor institutional performance indicators for the Annual Institutional Review (AIR). The Annual Institutional Review (AIR) is designed to maintain accountability between external accreditors and internal authorities. Round Rock has been approved as an independent sponsoring institution effective July 1, 2021, and the DIO will present the AIR and review action plans to the Scott & White Clinic Board of Directors which is the governing body. The GMEC must identify institutional performance indicators for the AIR, to include, at a minimum:

- The most recent ACGME institutional letter of notification;
- Results of ACGME surveys of residents/fellows and core faculty members; and,
- Each of its ACGME-accredited programs’ ACGME accreditation information, including accreditation and recognition statuses and citations.
- The DIO must annually submit a written executive summary of the AIR to the Sponsoring Institution’s Governing Body. The written executive summary must include a summary of institutional performance on indicators for the AIR; and action plans and performance monitoring procedures resulting from the AIR.

## **GMEC Reporting Structure**



## **GME Disaster Policy**

In the event of a disaster impacting the graduate medical education programs sponsored by BSW, the GMEC will protect the well-being, safety and educational experience of residents enrolled in our training programs.

A disaster as defined by the ACGME is an event or set of events causing significant alteration to the residency experience at one or more residency programs. When warranted, the ACGME Executive Director, with consultation of the ACGME Executive Committee and the Chair of the Institutional Review Committee, will make a declaration of a disaster. A notice will be posted on the ACGME website with information relating to ACGME response to the disaster. The ACGME will provide, and periodically update, information relating to the disaster on its website.

In the event of any occurrence, the GMEC, working with the DIO and BSW institutional leadership, will strive to restructure or reconstitute the educational experiences as quickly as possible following the disaster.

Insofar as a program or BSW cannot provide at least an adequate educational experience in a prompt manner to maximize the likelihood that residents/fellows will be able to complete program requirements within the standard time required for certification in that specialty, the DIO and GMEC will make the determination that transfer to another program is necessary.

Resident transfers may be:

1. Temporary transfers to other programs/institutions until the Baylor Scott & White residency/fellowship program can provide an adequate educational experience for each of its residents/fellows; or
2. Permanent transfers may be arranged if the disaster prevents BSW from re-establishing an adequate educational experience within a reasonable amount of time following the disaster.

The DIO, GMEC and institutional leadership will make its best effort to ensure that transfer decisions are made expeditiously to minimize interruptions in residency training and maximize the likelihood that each resident will complete his residency year in a timely manner. In the event of a disaster, BSWH and GMEC will make reasonable effort to continue the salary, benefits and liability coverage for the residents/fellows while they are employed by BSWH.

If more than one program/institution is available for temporary or permanent transfer of a resident, the transferee preferences of each resident must be considered by the DIO and GMEC.

The DIO will be the primary institutional contact with the ACGME and the Institutional Review Committee Executive Director (see ACGME institutional requirements). Program directors and House Staff Officers should contact the appropriate Residency Review Committee Executive Directors with information and/or requests for information.

*End of GMEC Institutional Policies*

### **GMEC SPECIAL REVIEW PROTOCOL (REV 06/2024)**

*Results in a timely report that describes the quality improvement goals, the corrective actions, and the process for GMEC monitoring of outcomes, including timelines (Core)*

#### **Special review committee**

Authority for GMEC special review is delegated to this GMEC Subcommittee.

#### **Special Review Committee Panel**

The Special Review Committee Panel consists of at least three members. The PD member of the uninvolved program will serve as Chair of the Special Review Committee. The panel will consist of at least one more faculty member from GMEC and one peer-selected resident/fellow.

#### **Trigger for initiating special review**

DIO shall schedule special review within 60-days of program's designation as underperforming. Special Review may also be requested by Program Directors or Program Leadership, which will occur as convenient for the program.

#### **Criteria for Identifying Underperformance**

Underperformance by a program can be identified through a wide range of mechanisms. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Annual Program evaluations submitted to the GMEC will identify deviations from expected results in standard performance indicators:

1. Program Attrition
  2. Program Changes
  3. Scholarly Activity
  4. Board Pass Rate
  5. Clinical Experience
  6. Resident or Faculty Survey
  7. Milestones
  8. Competencies
  9. Persistent citations
  10. Accreditation status with warning or probation
- Communications about or complaints against a program indicating potential egregious or substantive noncompliance with the ACGME Common, specialty/subspecialty-specific Program, and/or Institutional Requirements; or noncompliance with institutional policy;
  - A program's inability to demonstrate success in any of the following focus areas:
    1. Integration of residents/fellows into institution's Patient Safety Programs;
    2. Integration of residents/fellows into institution's Quality Improvement Programs and efforts to reduce
    3. Disparities in Health Care Delivery;
    4. Establishment and implementation of Supervision policies;
    5. Transitions in Care;
    6. Duty hours policy and/or fatigue management and mitigation; and
    7. Education and monitoring of Professionalism

A special review can also be requested by the Program Director or Departmental Chair / Leadership for the sole purpose of program improvement and identification of resources. In this case, recommendations will be made by the review committee and an action plan will be developed by the program but a monitoring plan will not be developed or required by the GMEC.

### **Process for special review**

1. When a Program meets any of the criteria for underperformance, Program leadership will supply the following documents to the Special Review Committee:
  - a. Last 3 years Annual Program Evaluation
  - b. Last 3 years ACGME resident and faculty surveys
  - c. Last 1 year ADS communication to ACGME Review Committee
  - d. Any other materials the special review committee considers necessary and appropriate
2. Program leadership team meets with Special Review Committee.
3. Peer-selected resident group meets with Special Review Committee.

4. The special review committee will have written a report of the review process with the findings and recommendations of the panel. They will submit these to the DIO, Program Director, and GMEC.
5. Special Review Committee meets with Program leadership team to discuss findings and recommendations, which may include quality improvement benchmarks, corrective actions/addressment of deficiencies, and overall timeline for completion.
6. Program submits quality improvement goals and corrective action plans with timelines to Special Review Committee for feedback.
7. The special review committee will provide oversight of the action plan.

### **Timeline and Outcome of special review**

Within 1 month of initiation the special review committee will present an assessment of program quality improvement goals, corrective actions required to meet these goals, GMEC monitoring of these goals and a timeline for approval. The action plan will be reviewed by the special review committee with program leadership at 3- and 6- months. Any action plans will be incorporated into the program's Annual Program Evaluation and ADS communication with the relevant ACGME Review Committee.

The Program and Special Review Committee will submit their QI plan to the GMEC for approval. If any revisions are found necessary by the GMEC, the Program and Special Review Committee will submit their new proposal for review during the next GMEC meeting. The GMEC will review the status and progress of the program after 6- and 12-months to determine the successful completion of ACGME requirements.

A program is removed from special review protocol when the reasons for its entry have been successfully addressed as assessed by recommendation of the special review committee and approved by the GMEC.

*End of GMEC Special Review Protocol Policies*

## **RESIDENT POLICIES**

### **HOUSE STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES (REV 07/2023)**

The goal of the residency program is to provide House Staff with extensive experience in the art and science of medicine to achieve excellence in the diagnosis, care and treatment of patients. To achieve this goal, House Staff agree to do the following:

1. Under the supervision of the program director, assume responsibilities for the safe, effective and compassionate care of patients, consistent with the House Staff's level of clinical and academic education and experience.
2. Participate fully in the educational and scholarly activities of the residency program and, as required, assume responsibility for teaching and supervising other residents and medical students.
3. Develop and participate in a personal program of learning to foster continued professional growth with guidance from the teaching staff.
4. Participate in institutional/departmental programs, committees, councils and activities which actions affect his/her education and/or patient care involving the medical staff as assigned by the program director, and adhere to the established policies, procedures and practices of Baylor Scott & White – Round Rock and its affiliated institutions.
5. At least annually participate in the confidential and written evaluation of the program and its faculty.
6. Enter and approve duty hours in New Innovations by the 5th of the following month.
7. Apply cost containment measures in the provision of patient care.
8. Keep patient charts, records and reports up to date and signed always. *Clinical Responsibilities Section of the Institutional Policies for further information.*)
9. Adhere to ACGME institutional and program requirements.
10. Participate in an educational program regarding physician impairment, including substance abuse, and receive instruction in quality assurance/performance improvement and patient safety.
11. Demonstrate professionalism always.
12. Maintain current TMB Physician-in-training Permit or TMB Medical License relating to specialty.
13. Maintain required certifications for [sub]specialty.
14. Annual Learning Compliance Modules
15. Employee Health required vaccinations (immunizations)
16. Risk Management Seminars
17. CLABSI Training if required for [sub]specialty.
18. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) Training for [sub]specialty.
19. Abide by all BSWH System Policies and GME Policies

*End of House Staff Responsibilities Policy*

**APPOINTMENT LETTERS/ AGREEMENTS IV.C.2.B (REV 07/2024)**

The association of the House Staff officer and TAMHSC-COM/BSW is formalized by a written agreement of appointment. Sample letters can be found under resources in the section of the [Graduate Medical Education \(GME\) in Austin-Round Rock, TX | BSWHealth.med](#)

Applicants who are interviewed are provided with a copy, and/or the website address of the appointment letter that includes financial support. A copy of the sample letter, House Staff handbook, salaries and benefits are available on the Baylor Scott & White website. Any recent House Staff Handbook changes not included in the published document will be shared with applicants that interviewed.

Continuation of appointment is subject to satisfactory performance of training expectations and adherence to GME and BSWH Institutional policies. Satisfactory results of substance abuse testing are a condition of employment for **all** Baylor Scott & White employees.

Specialty board eligibility requirements can be found using the below links:

- Family Medicine: [ABFM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)
- Internal Medicine: [ABIM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)
- Gastroenterology: [ABIM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)
- Clinical Informatics: [ABPM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)
- Cardiovascular Disease: [ABIM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)
- Interventional Cardiology: [ABIM Eligibility for Certification and Board Policies](#)



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
School of Medicine

Dear <<firstname>> <<lastname>>

We are very pleased to have you join us for your graduate medical education training at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock and Texas A&M University College of Medicine. This letter is your official Letter of Appointment to PGY-1. This appointment is effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The 2024-2025 annual salary for a PGY-1 is \$68,926. Your salary and benefits commence on the date of your hospital orientation or start date of training if hired “off-cycle” (other than a July 1 appointment).

BSWH is committed to providing all our patients and learners with a safe environment. Therefore, subject to certain due process exceptions outlined in the ACGME guidelines and/or House Staff Handbook your continued employment is considered at-will, and your employment may be terminated with or without cause by you or BSWH. Only an agreement signed by a duly authorized representative of BSWH can change the at-will status of your employment.

Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a drug and nicotine screen, “campus hiring policy” as well as the mandatory COVID and influenza vaccination policy. Additionally, you must have satisfactorily passed USMLE Steps 1,2, & 3, or its comparable examination, (i.e. COMLEX) to begin your fellowship appointment. It is required you document medical records and log your duty hours/approve your duty hours; all in an accurate, honest, and timely manner. Failure to comply with the duty hours’ expectations may jeopardize your continued employment. Employment is also contingent upon verification of educational credentials, passage of criminal background check and obtaining a Physician In-Training (PIT) Permit from the Texas Medical Board.

The following items are requirements from the ACGME to be listed in your appointment letter. Please visit our website <https://www.bswhealth.med/education/Pages/gme/austin.aspx> to learn more about all the [benefits](#) and [policies](#) of Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Financial Support for the Resident                              | 12. Conditions for Living Quarters, Meals, Laundry       |
| 2. PTO (Paid time Off) Policies                                    | 13. Counseling, Medical, Psychological Support Services  |
| 3. Professional Liability Insurance                                | 14. Policy on Physician Impairment and Substance Abuse   |
| 4. Professional Liability Insurance (Tail Coverage)                | 15. Residents’ Responsibilities                          |
| 5. Disability and Health Insurance                                 | 16. Duration of Appointment                              |
| 6. Professional Leave of Absence Benefits                          | 17. Conditions for Reappointment                         |
| 7. Parental Leave of Absence Benefits                              | 18. Policy of Professional Activities Outside of Program |
| 8. Sick Leave Benefits   | 19. Grievance Procedures                                 |
| 9. Leave of Absence Policy   | 20. Policies on Gender or Other Forms of Harassment      |
| 10. Policy on Effect of Leave for Satisfying Completion of Program | 21. Residency Closure/Reduction Policy                   |
| 11. Eligibility for specialty board examinations                   | 22. Duty Hours   |

By my signature below, I hereby acknowledge receipt of the appointment letter and all policies (as indicated above). Furthermore, I will abide by all policies (as indicated above) as well as any Intellectual Property involvement I may have with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Round Rock will remain the property of Baylor Scott & White Health System.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rakesh Surapaneni, MD  
Designated Institutional Official (DIO)

**PROMOTIONS/ REAPPOINTMENT IV.D.1 (REV 09/2024)**

The determination to reappoint or not to reappoint House Staff is made by the Program Director with consideration of the Clinical Competency Committee review. The CCC review is based on successful completion of the current year and milestone/evaluation of readiness for advancement to higher responsibility. All PGY-1 residents are expected to successfully complete USMLE Step 3, or its equivalent, prior to July 1 of their PGY-2. Those who have not successfully passed are subject to recommendations of the program's CCC regarding the time frame to successfully complete Step 3. Alternatively, the Program Director, Resident and DIO may structure a time frame for completion of Step 3. However, no resident is exempt from successful completion of USMLE-3 or its equivalent. Information and links to the Step 3 application are available on the [Medical Licensing Examination page of the FSMB website](#).

House Staff not being reappointed to the next year of training should be notified in writing by the program director four (4) months prior to the ending date of the current agreement of appointment. If the primary reason for the non-renewal occurs within the four months prior to the end of the agreement of appointment, programs must provide the House Staff with as much written notice of the intent not to renew as the circumstances will reasonably allow prior to the end of the agreement of appointment. Written notification of disciplinary or remedial action constitutes compliance with this policy. House Staff must be allowed to implement the institution's grievance procedures if they have received a written notice of intent not to renew the agreements of appointment. House Staff who do not plan to continue in the succeeding year of their training program should notify the program director in writing four (4) months prior to the ending date of their current appointment or as early as the decision to not continue is made.

*End of Promotions/ Reappointment IV.D.1 Policy*

## STIPENDS/PAYROLL (REV 07/2023)

House Staff are paid by Baylor Scott & White – Round Rock on two-week intervals. Paydays are Friday. The gross amount of each biweekly paycheck is calculated by dividing the annual stipend stated in a resident's/fellow's appointment letter into 26 pay periods. **NOTE: For IRS purposes, the remuneration to a resident/fellow is considered salary.**

There is an increase for each progressive level of training.

Pay levels are determined by the following guidelines:

1. House Staff stipends are defined by the level of training in their current program (their functional level of their current training).
2. The pay schedule range is from PGY-1 to PGY-8 level. Any training beyond PGY-8 is paid at the PGY-8 level.
3. Pay levels are reviewed annually by the DIO, PD Council and GME Executive Finance Committee.
4. Direct deposit is required for distribution of pay. Upon initial appointment, you should have your Direct Deposit enrollment completed as soon as possible. Failure to meet the deadline (please consult with the GME Office for specific dates), will result in a paper check being sent to the most current address on file in PeoplePlace.
5. You are responsible to keep your address updated via PeoplePlace. This includes upon termination.
6. Payroll information may be accessed electronically on the [Baylor Scott & White PeoplePlace website](#). Login will be necessary after clicking link. Click on the “Payroll” tile.

*End of Stipends/Payroll Policy*

## CALL QUARTERS (REV 07/2023)

Adequate and appropriate sleeping quarters are available for House Staff that are required by their medical training program to remain overnight in the hospital. The call room is available on a first come-first served basis. This call room is also available for those House Staff who have either had to stay late and are too tired to drive home and/or get called back in. If in-house call is required at affiliated training institutions, sleeping quarters are provided by and located at that institution. Call the GME Office at 28-3412 with any issues/concerns regarding the call-room suite.

In the event a GME trainee is too tired to drive home after completing a shift, you may be reimbursed the cost of a taxi or ride-share to get you home. House Staff should notify supervising physician if such instances arise. If necessary, reimbursement for the return trip to

pick up your car or to return for duty at Baylor Scott & White will be reimbursed. An itemized receipt (date of ride, dollar amount, location) must be submitted via Concur.

*End of Call Quarters Policy*

#### **CALL MEALS (REV 07/2023)**

Meals are provided in the Round Rock hospital cafeterias and Baylor Scott & White McLane Children’s Medical Center for House Staff when on 24-hour hospital duty. Baylor Scott & White – Round Rock residents are provided a flat monthly allowance. Regardless of location of training, the meal allowance afforded each resident is for a meal for that resident. Meal allowance should not be used to buy meals for others, including family members, and medical students, nor should it be used to stock up on refreshments (i.e., beverages, snacks or purchase non-food items, such as coffee mugs).

At the end of each month, balances are wiped clean and replenished on the first of the subsequent month. Call meal accounts are closed at midnight on the last day of the month. Any remaining funds will be returned to the program’s cost center.

To obtain a Baylor Scott & White-supplied meal while on duty, the House Staff must present his/her meal card to the cafeteria cashier. Utilization of call meal account must comply with terms agreed upon by House Staff Association and Food & Nutrition. Non-compliance of the Call Meal Policy may result in House Staff being placed on a formal remediation.

Lost or stolen identification cards should be reported to your program administrator. Replacement cards may require a fee and will be ordered by your Program Administrator. Replacement cards will be obtained through the cashier in the Cafeteria unless otherwise specified.

*End of Call Meals Policy*

#### **NON-COMPETITION GUARANTEES OR RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS (REV 07/2023)**

**Non-competition policy:** As per the institutional Graduate Medical Education policy none of the employment contracts in any of the ACGME accredited training programs can have a non-competition policy. Resident/fellows should be able to work after training at their desired location. Any written or implied restriction on non-competition by any of the program or GME administration or faculty is strictly prohibited.

*End of Non-Competition Guarantees or Restrictive Covenants Policy*

### INTERACTIONS WITH VENDORS (REV 08/2024)

For the most updated policy on Conflicts of Interests in Vendor/Product/Service Selection, please utilize the following link:

<https://bsw.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?token=ce9e5a30-8d25-4b7f-bff7-de103f2c1131&dtoken=96b0c8f5-e7c9-4673-b8e7-b217c1692a80>

*End of Interactions with Vendors Policy*

### CLINICAL ROTATION MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT (REV 07/2023)

House Staff may be reimbursed for mileage for clinical rotations that are required and outside the Central Texas radius (Waco, Killeen, Harker Heights, Round Rock, Georgetown, Temple, Lakeway, and Austin). If rotation is beyond a 60-mile radius from the Round Rock Medical Center, you may seek reimbursement within 60 days of the end date of the rotation in which you are seeking reimbursement. Reimbursement should be requested via Concur and must be reviewed and approved by your Program Administrator. Note: if you are traveling to/from home, you will need to “Deduct Commute” in the Mileage Calculator. Please refer to the Baylor Scott & White Travel and Business Expense Policy for further policy restrictions using the following link:

<https://bsw.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?token=ce9e5a30-8d25-4b7f-bff7-de103f2c1131&dtoken=b50b1164-b2ce-41b4-998a-e2b651c273e0>

*End of Program Clinical Rotation Mileage Rotation Policy*

## **CLER POLICIES**

### **HOUSE STAFF ATTIRE (REV 07/2023)**

House Staff should dress and behave as a member of the professional team. General attire will be neat, clean, moderate in style and appropriate for the professional type work performed. Extremely casual styles (such as blue denim jeans) is not permissible. Hair must be maintained in a clean and neat manner. Hairstyles will be appropriately controlled so as not to interfere with work or patient care. Facial hair should be well-trimmed and neat. However, if facial hair prevents the standard annual fitting for the Mask Fit Test from being completed, appropriate measures must be taken in accordance with BSWH policy. Jewelry will be conservative and worn in a manner that will not interfere with work activities. Your Employee ID Badge must always be worn. Check with your program as to when and where lab coats must be worn. No non-professional pins, insignias, buttons, tags, etc., are to be worn on the laboratory coat in patient care areas.

Baylor Scott & White GME will reimburse up to \$38 toward the total cost of lab coat(s), including embroidery for each new House Staff; however, with the noted exception of those specialties in which a soft-shell jacket is more appropriate, reimbursement will be covered up to \$38 toward the cost of either a lab coat **or** a soft-shell embroidered jacket, including embroidery, that is to be worn while at working at Baylor Scott & White. When requesting reimbursement, please consult with your program administrator before completing reimbursement form via Concur. You will be required to attach the GME Policy on House Staff Attire, attach the receipt, and your program administrator must review/approve prior to submitting.

Scrubs may be worn for call duty or on units or services determined by the program as appropriate for scrub attire. Because wearing scrubs outside the hospital environment increase potential infection, they are not to be worn outside the hospital. Operating Room, Pavilion and Labor and Delivery scrubs are available in designated dispensing machines for all House Staff working within these areas. These institutionally provided scrubs are not to be worn off premises. All House Staff are expected to return the institutionally owned scrubs into the designated return units.. Upon each entry to the surgical suite, all House Staff are expected to be properly dressed in freshly laundered clean and neat scrubs, including pants and shirt, clean cap or hood, which contains and covers all hair. Caps may be homemade if they fully cover the hair.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWPoliciesandProcedures/SitePages/Home.aspx>

**Please refer to the [COVID Policy](#) for the latest updates regarding PPE.**

*End of House Staff Attire*

## ***NON-DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT (REV 07/2023)***

Staff members and their work environment should be free from all forms of unlawful harassment and intimidation. Baylor Scott & White does not permit staff members to engage in unlawful discriminatory practices, sexual harassment or harassment based on race, color, religion, sexual orientation, sex (gender), national origin, age, disability or status as a veteran. Unlawful harassment by any staff member, supervisor, department head or person doing business with Baylor Scott & White is strictly prohibited.

Harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual because of their race, color, religion, sex (gender), national origin, age, disability or status as a veteran. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an offensive or hostile work atmosphere.

Staff members who believe that they are being sexually harassed or harassed should immediately report their concern. All of the following are available to you directly, but it is suggested you begin with whomever you feel you can best speak freely. Your Program Director, Associate Program director, or the DIO (Dr. Rakesh Surapaneni). The complaint will be promptly investigated and, if it is determined that harassment has occurred, Baylor Scott & White will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including discharge of the offending staff member. No staff member will be retaliated against for filing a complaint. All complaints will be handled in confidence. Should you have any difficulty in reaching anyone designated above, please call the GME Manager, Taylor Chadwick at 28-3412. Or, you may email [Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org)

*End of Non-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment Policy*

## ***DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (REV 07/2023)***

Each program at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center Round Rock, in partnership with its Sponsoring Institution, will engage in practices that focus on mission-driven, ongoing, systematic recruitment and retention of a diverse and inclusive workforce of residents, fellows, faculty members, senior administrative staff members, and other relevant members of its academic community. The sponsoring institution will promote a sense of belonging by valuing and respecting the talents, beliefs, and backgrounds of the entire community.

Programs should aim to provide a professional, healthy, and respectful environment free from discrimination, harassment, mistreatment, abuse, or coercion with cultivating an environment

in which the house staff can provide feedback and raise concerns without fear of retaliation or intimidation.

The GME holds accountability that clinical learning environments should be safe and supportive for all residents and fellows and supports ensuring that residents and fellows learn to care for the diverse populations and demographics of their local institutional and programmatic setting.

The GME department continuously reviews and evaluates resources to help individuals across the continuum connect, develop awareness, and build and enhance local programs and efforts in areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Everyone in the GME community has a responsibility to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion at all levels educated in an environment that reflects and respects diversity in all its facets.

*End of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Policy*

#### CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION IV.K (REV 07/2023)

Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational and clinical experience opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal activities.

Each residency and fellowship program will comply with [ACGME](#), Institutional and Program Requirements regarding duty hours. All programs must monitor work hours on an ongoing basis. Additionally, monitoring of duty hours will be conducted by review of RRC Anonymous Surveys, monthly institutional duty hours' reports and any incidents/occurrences brought to the attention of the GME Office. These formal policies must apply to all institutions to which the House Staff rotates.

Providing House Staff with a sound academic and clinical education must be carefully planned and balanced with concerns for patient safety and House Staff well-being. Each program must ensure the learning objectives of the program are not compromised by excessive reliance on House Staff to fulfill service obligations. Didactic and clinical education must have priority in the allotment of House Staff's time and energies. Duty hour assignments must recognize that Faculty and House Staff collectively have responsibility for the safety and welfare of patients.

1. Maximum Hours of Clinical and Educational Work per Week (CPR: July 2020)
  - c. Clinical and educational work hours must be limited to no more than 80 hours per week, averaged over a four-week period, inclusive of all in-house clinical and educational activities, clinical work done from home and all moonlighting.

#### 9. Mandatory Time Free of Clinical Work and Education (CPR July 2020)

The program must design an effective program structure that is configured to provide residents with educational opportunities, as well as reasonable opportunities for rest and personal well-being.

1. Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods.
2. 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 one-day-off-in-seven requirements.
3. Residents must have at least 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.
4. Resident be scheduled for a minimum of one day in seven free of clinical work and required education (when averaged over four weeks). At home call cannot be assigned on these free days.

#### 10. Maximum Clinical Work and Education Period Length

1. Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.
2. Up to four hours of additional time may be used for activities related to patient safety, such as providing effective transitions of care and/or resident education.
3. Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time.

#### 11. Clinical and Educational Work Hour Exceptions

In rare circumstances, after handing off all other responsibilities, a resident, on their own initiative, may elect to remain or return to the clinical site in the following circumstances:

1. to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient;
2. humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or,
3. to attend unique educational events

***(These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit.)***

#### 12. Moonlighting

Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program and must not interfere with the resident's fitness for work nor compromise patient safety.

1. Because residency education is a full-time endeavor, Moonlighting is at the discretion of the Program Director, and the Program Director must ensure that

moonlighting does not interfere with the resident’s fitness for work, nor compromise patient safety.

2. Time spent by House Staff in internal and external moonlighting must be counted toward the 80-hour maximum weekly work hour limit, logged into New Innovations by resident/fellow and be monitored by the program via [New Innovations](#).
3. PGY-1 residents are **not** permitted to moonlight.

### 13. In-House Night Float

- a. Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off-in seven requirements.
- b. The maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float and maximum number of months of night float per year, is specified by the Review Committee.

### 14. 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).

### 15. At-Home Call

Time spent in the hospital by House Staff on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly work hour 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 duty when averaged over four weeks.

- 1) At-home call must not be as frequent, or taxing, as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time or each House Staff.
- 2) House Staff 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.

*End of Clinical Experience and Education Policy*

<b>MOONLIGHTING (REV 07/2023)</b>
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Employment and/or conducting of a medical practice outside the scope of a GME program (“moonlighting”) is generally discouraged, as such activity may interfere with training assignments.

#### A. Prior Approval of Program Director Required

All moonlighting requires the approval of the Program Director and is at their discretion. Program Directors must be made aware in writing in advance of any employment

undertaken by any House Staff so that the Program Director may determine the intensity of the activity and its impact on sleep and fatigue which may impact resident/fellow learning. If the Program Director grants permission for the House Staff member to engage in moonlighting, he/she must do so in writing, and this information will be made part of the House Staff's folder.

If, in the judgment of the Program Director or the Graduate Medical Education Committee, outside employment interferes with, or otherwise detrimentally affects a House Staff's completion of assigned duties or responsibilities, academic performance or professional conduct, curtailment or discontinuance of outside employment may be made a condition for continuation of his/her training program. **Please note that while on any type of leave of absence, you are not permitted to moonlight.**

#### B. Moonlighting Hours

All pre-approved moonlighting hours, internal and external, will be accounted for and counted toward the 80-hour weekly duty hour limit and logged in New Innovations. **PGY1 residents are not permitted to moonlight.**

#### C. Insurance Coverage

House Staff who contemplate moonlighting should be aware that Baylor Scott & White's professional liability insurance **only** covers incidents that occur within the scope of an approved BSW GME program, or which are undertaken on behalf of Baylor Scott & White. Therefore, House Staff who moonlight are advised to obtain professional liability insurance individually and/or through their outside employers.

NOTE: House Staff participating in "in-house" moonlighting activities at Baylor Scott & White facilities or at Baylor Scott & White-sponsored facilities will be credentialed by the facility in which they are moonlighting, and may be covered under Baylor Scott & White's professional liability insurance policy subject to the prior approval of the Program Director and the Baylor Scott & White Department of Risk Management.

#### D. Specialty Training Programs

Each residency/fellowship training program must have their own Moonlighting Policy as a supplement to this GME Institutional Policy; each policy should be consistent with ACGME guidelines for duty hours. These policies must be distributed (or electronically available) to House Staff and faculty.

#### E. Termination of Employment

Upon termination of employment (i.e. graduation from residency/fellowship, if your "Locum" appointment is no longer needed, please advise the GME Office that your Locum appointment may be terminated.

**PHYSICIAN IMPAIRMENT/SUBSTANCE ABUSE (REV 07/2023)**

The abuse of controlled substances by physicians, especially House Staff in training, looms as a major concern for Graduate Medical Education Programs as this problem leads to the destruction of professional careers, personal and family life and even loss of life itself.

It is the responsibility of Graduate Medical Education Programs to have an educational program on Substance Abuse/Physician Impairment available for their House Staff as well as their faculty. Educational material should contain information:

1. About the facts and problems associated with chemical dependency;
2. About programs of intervention, support and treatment for the individual and their families suffering from this problem; and
3. About follow-up support after the acute treatment program has been completed.

Chemical dependency is a disease that can be treated and from which the chemically dependent professional can recover. Re-entry of these highly trained medical professionals into the active practice of medicine may be in the best interest of the physicians as well as society.

Baylor Scott & White performs routine drug screening at the beginning of residency training. As part of the orientation process at the beginning of training, information about the Baylor Scott & White substance abuse policy and the Employee Assistance Program is presented to House Staff. Failure to have a negative test, may result in termination of your employment.

A House Staff with a substance abuse problem who wants help can contact his/her Program Director, Department Chairman, [Peer Support](#) (formerly known as SWADDLE), InSight Counseling Services, Program Administrator, DIO, GME Manager. An appropriate referral for examination and treatment will be made according to Baylor Scott & White procedures.

Alternatively, a House Staff may be identified as or suspected of performing professional duties under the influence of legally or illegally obtained stimulant, sedative or other psychoactive drugs through the gathering and submission of evidence to the Program Director. The Program Director will then consult the DIO, regarding the best plan of action. Contact will be made with the Director of Human Resources and appropriate steps will be taken. This will usually result in a drug screen. House Staff will be afforded the opportunity to be honest in their use of drugs; however, any House Staff testing positive and chose to keep their drug use from their Program Director, the DIO or other appropriate hospital leadership, will be terminated. The House Staff members may appeal against the termination.

If the House Staff has provided full disclosure regarding their chemical dependence and sufficient evidence has been obtained. an intervention will be arranged with the Program

Director, Department Chairman and either our Internal or External Well-being Counselors will determine the evaluations that should take place according to guidelines outlined in the Baylor Scott & White Supervisory Guide. Should a substance abuse problem be proven, the House Staff member may be referred to the most appropriate level of treatment.

After the acute treatment program is completed, depending upon the recommendations of the treating clinician, the resident may or may not be reinstated as an active member in the residency program. Should a decision be made to reinstate the House Staff member, reintroduction into the clinical workplace will be done in a controlled fashion. First, the treating physician will need to provide a “Fit for Duty” notice prior to the House Staff’s return to work. It is recognized that the greatest chance for successful treatment and rehabilitation occurs when the recovering House Staff returns to a warm and supportive environment. The [Texas Physician Health Program](#) and the treating physician will assist in the continuing care and follow-up with a specific rehabilitative discharge plan. This process will be specified by a written agreement involving the House Staff, the treating clinician, the GME Program Director involved and the DIO. The contract will include such details as access to controlled substances, random drug testing and regular attendance at self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous. Any failure on the part of the House Staff to adhere to the contract may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Failure of the House Staff to comply with the monitoring program and the treating physician’s course of treatment will result in termination.

*End of Physician Impairment/Substance Abuse Policy*

**COUNSELING SUPPORT SERVICES (REV 07/2023)**

Baylor Scott & White recognizes that increasing responsibilities of House Staff require sustained intellectual and physical effort. On occasion, these responsibilities result in stress on the individual or family requiring extra support. This support is provided through multiple resources. The Baylor Scott & White Health Plan Psychiatric coverage includes acute and situational evaluation and therapy, as well as long-term care by psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers. Comprehensive medical care is provided by the Baylor Scott & White Health Plan. Referral for services not connected with Baylor Scott & White (for confidentiality reasons) can be obtained through the Designated Institutional Official in the Graduate Medical Education Administrative Office or the GME Manager. The [Physician Impairment Policy](#) deals specifically with support for physicians who are identified as being compromised due to substance abuse. For additional resources, please refer to the *Rejuvenate GME Well-Being Program*.

**[Peer Support](#)**

As our employees strive to live our mission, sometimes unexpected and inexplicable outcomes occur, and the very individuals delivering care become the ones in need of support. When second victim/healthcare adversity happens, "what if" questions abound, and feelings of helplessness, vulnerability and fear are common. The [Peer Support](#) team is here to support you and/or your staff

through unanticipated events and difficult times that occur in the workplace with understanding, compassion and complete confidentiality.

<https://bswhealth.sharepoint.com/sites/BSWEmployeeHealth/SitePages/PeerSupport.aspx>

webpage where you can choose which peer supporter (per support bios) you would like to speak with or to request staff support counseling, or you can email at [SWADDLE@BSWHealth.org](mailto:SWADDLE@BSWHealth.org). You can call 254-724-6813 Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (At time of publication SWADDLE email address is still active.)

### **What is second victim/healthcare adversity?**

- Second victim is when something unanticipated occurs in the healthcare setting, and staff members involved are negatively affected.
- Healthcare adversity can be a claim, lawsuit, deposition, difficult disclosure or board complaint.
- Individual peer support through the Peer Support Team – Selected staff members, many who have experienced second victim/healthcare adversity, receive training in active listening and psychological first aid and are available to support their peers with complete confidentiality.
- Prevention and education seminars, including compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress, mindfulness and stress.

### **What types of second victim/healthcare adversity does [Peer Support](#) cover ?**

- Medical errors
- Unexpected/traumatic patient outcomes
- Difficult disclosures, claims and lawsuits
- Outside agency complaints (i.e., Texas Medical Board, Board of Nursing, etc.)
- Internal crisis, mass casualties and disasters that impact staff resilience
- Individual peer support through the [Peer Support](#)

### **What Peer Support does not do:**

- Promise or ensure continued employment
- Promise that disciplinary action will not be imposed
- Give legal advice
- Authorize time off from work or utilization of Baylor Scott & White paid benefits
- Provide verbal or written support to be used by the employee in seeking leave under FMLA, general medical leave, short-term disability or long-term disability
- Assist with employee/manager conflict
- Act as an advocate or agent for the employee

Contact [Peer Support/](#)

System Director or Volunteer Coordinator

254-724-6813 or 254-724-6544

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Email: [SWADDLE@BSWHealth.org](mailto:SWADDLE@BSWHealth.org)

Other additional counseling services available 24/7 through Chaplain's Office: 254-724-0306, pager: 633-1029, or Eric Hammer's phone: 724-1685, Monday-Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and EAP (Employee Assistance Program-[Cigna Life Assistance Program](#))

<https://www.advantageengagement.com>

24/7 Talk: 800-538-3543

Offsite GME-funded Counseling: Insight Counseling [www.insight-cc.org](http://www.insight-cc.org) 254-307-2495

- Please note the phone number for InSight is an office number and you may get voicemail.
- The number of sessions is on a case-by-case determination at the discretion of Insight Counseling.

*End of Counseling Support Services*

#### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS IV.I.4 (REV 07/2023)**

BSWH is committed to providing equal opportunities for qualified House Staff with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

An otherwise qualified House Staff with a disability is defined as any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities, who has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment and is otherwise capable of performing and participating in a residency/fellowship program with reasonable accommodation.

BSWH may take steps to provide reasonable and necessary auxiliary educational aids to otherwise qualified residents/fellows with a disability. Reasonable accommodations may be made unless doing so would cause undue hardship on the operations of the hospital/clinic, an alteration or modification to a program to the extent that it changes the fundamental nature of that program or a direct threat to the safety of the individual or others. Auxiliary aids may include, but are not limited to, various methods of making orally delivered materials reasonably available to residents/fellows certified as having a disability by a licensed physician; TAMHSC-COM/BSW is not required to provide attendants, individually prescribed devices, readers or interpreters for personal use or study, or other devices or services of a personal nature. Academic requirements essential to the residency/fellowship program being pursued by the resident/fellow or that relate directly to licensing requirements may not be modified.

A request for accommodation may be made at any time during residency training. In order for the resident to receive maximum benefit from his/her residency training time, requests for accommodation should be made in writing to the program director as early in the training

process as possible. Upon receipt of the request, the program director is expected to meet with the House Staff to acknowledge the request and explain the process.

The Program Director, the Designated Institutional Official, and if appropriate, the GME designated Human Resources Business Partner, will coordinate with the resident/fellow to determine whether the requested accommodation would be effective, reasonable and enable the resident to perform the essential functions of the position and achieve the essential educational goals and program objectives, or make a good faith effort to negotiate another accommodation.

All medical-related information will be kept confidential and maintained separately from other resident records. However, key faculty and program administrators may be advised of information necessary to make the determinations they are required to make regarding a request for accommodation. Employee Health personnel may be informed, when appropriate, if the disability might require emergency treatment or if any specific procedures are needed in case of fire or other evacuations. Government officials investigating compliance with the ADA may also be provided relevant information as requested.

Once an individual has been approved for specific accommodations, and has subsequently received those accommodations, that individual should be held to the same essential performance standards as all other trainees. Focus should be on the trainee's performance in all evaluations. Written evaluations should not mention disabilities or accommodations for disabilities in any way. BSWH does not notify potential residency or fellowship programs or other employers about an individual's disabilities without specific permission from the trainee.

*End of Disability Accommodations Policy*

## LEAVE POLICIES IV.H.1-2 (Rev 02/2024)

### LEAVES OF ABSENCE

All requests for leaves of absence must comply with program, BSWH policy and GME policy.

Baylor Scott & White GME will provide residents/fellows with a minimum of six weeks of approved medical, parental, and caregiver leave(s) of absence for qualifying reasons that are consistent with applicable laws at least once and at any time during an ACGME-accredited program, starting the day the resident/fellow is required to report. Qualifying leave(s) totaling six weeks are permitted on a continuous or non-continuous basis at least once and at any time during the residency or fellowship program and can be segmented into separate leaves for a total of six weeks. Segmented leave must be at least 7 consecutive days to constitute a qualifying leave of absence. Residents and fellows will be provided with at least the equivalent of 100 percent of their salary for these six weeks of the approved medical, parental, or caregiver leave(s) of absence taken.

All residents/fellows are permitted one additional week of paid time off outside of the first six weeks of the first medical, parental, or caregiver leave(s) of absence taken. (Institutional IV.H.1.c.). Upon usage of the first six-weeks of allotted leave, any additional leaves of absence are at the program director's discretion.

All leaves must have the approval of the Program Director and program administrator with at least (30) days' advance notice of the proposed leave date. Where advance notice is not possible, notice should be given as soon as practicable (Institutional IV.H.1.a, IV.H.1.e).

The House Staff is responsible for notifying the Absence Center when applying for a leave of absence, any change in dates regarding the leave and if required, obtain a doctor's note for clearance to return to work. While on any type of Leave of Absence, residents and fellows are not permitted to participate in any clinical activity, including Moonlighting. Additionally, access to Baylor Scott & White Health Systems will be limited during this time.

Depending upon residency and fellowship Specialty-Specific requirements, any prolonged leave from training may result in the need to extend individual training to fulfill educational requirements. Absence from the program for more than 21 consecutive days (excluding vacation time, family or military leave) must be reported to the Texas Medical Board by the Program Director. When additional time is needed to fulfill Board requirements, a new reappointment letter must be issued with the new extended training date. All related training extensions will be communicated by the PD with accurate information regarding when criteria for satisfactory completion of the program can be met and when the resident/fellow will regain eligibility to participate in examinations by the relevant certifying boards (Institutional IV.H.1.g).

Other insurance premiums may not continue during intervals of leave **without** pay. Consultation with Baylor Scott & White Health PeoplePlace is necessary to delineate these issues and address other benefits.

The GME Office is happy to help navigate through the Leave of Absence. Please contact the GME Manager for any questions or clarifications needed.

**Additional resources:**

GME Manager: [Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org](mailto:Taylor.Chadwick@BSWHealth.org)

PeoplePlace phone number: 844-417-5223

Absence Center phone number: 844-511-5762

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time

Click on the link below for the 2024 Benefits Contact sheet: [BSW Benefits Contact Sheet](#)

For further information about leaves of absence, visit their website: [mySedgwick.com/BSWH](http://mySedgwick.com/BSWH)

**PAID TIME OFF (PTO)/VACATION LEAVE**

All vacation leave must be approved by the House Staff's Program Director and attending physician on the service that will be affected by the leave, if applicable. All leave must be documented within your program. Three weeks (15 workdays) per academic year are granted to all House Staff. Paid Time Off/Vacation Leave allotments on external rotations at institutions other than Baylor Scott & White are included. Please note that PTO is subject to the requirements of your program [sub]specialty board. BSWH Policy does **not** allow for Paid Time Off to be carried forward to the next year. House Staff will not be compensated for unused vacation leave upon their termination.

House Staff receive regular pay for holidays observed by Baylor Scott & White and is not deducted from paid time leave:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

**SICK LEAVE (EIB-EXTENDED ILLNESS BANK)**

House Staff is granted 13 days paid sick leave per academic year for personal illness. BSWH Policy does not allow for unused sick leave to be carried over to subsequent training years. Please note that EIB is subject to the requirements of your program [sub]specialty board.

A doctor's excuse may be required of House Staff if paid or unpaid sick leave is used for two consecutive days. Additionally, a doctor's excuse may be required upon each additional paid or unpaid sick leave taken beyond the first 5-days of sick leave. Doctor's excuses may be requested at the discretion of the House Staff's program director.

If sick leave extends 7 continuous days, House Staff should reach the absence center for additional guidance on leave options.

Upon exhausting available paid leave, sick and vacation, House Staff needing additional leave time may be placed on leave without pay and be required to make up training time lost at the end of the medical training program if so determined by his/her Program Director/CCC.

House Staff will not be compensated for unused sick leave upon termination.

## PARENTAL LEAVES

Parental leave provided by BSWH and the GME office will be counted toward the six weeks of leave allotted per training program length.

Parental leave can be used on a continuous or non-continuous basis, with the flexibility to take leave at any time within the first 12 months of childbirth or adoption. Segmented leave must be at least 7 consecutive days to constitute a qualifying leave of absence.

To receive this benefit, Residents and fellows are not required to enroll into Short-term Disability (STD). Please reference the “Pay While on Leave” section of the “Resident/Fellow Parental, Medical, and Caregiver Leave – 2023 FAQ” below for additional details.

For the full policy description, please visit:  
[Residents/Fellows Leave of Absence Policy](#)

Click on the link below for FAQ regarding the Absence Center.  
[BSWH Absence Center Frequently Asked Questions](#)

# Resident/Fellow Parental, Medical and Caregiver Leave 2023 FAQs

Resident/Fellows may be eligible for Medical, Parental and Caregiver Leave, which provides up to six (6) weeks of paid leave for qualifying reasons.

Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions. You can scroll through, click on a topic from the table of contents, or search the entire document. If you still have questions about this leave program after reviewing these FAQs, please contact the Absence Center at **844-511-5762** Monday – Friday from 7a.m. to 7 p.m. CST.

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## ELIGIBILITY

**Q. Who is eligible for this paid leave program?**

This program is available to all benefit-eligible Residents or Fellows.

**Q. Is there a waiting period required before I can apply for this program?**

No, you may apply immediately upon hire—there is no waiting period.

**Q. What are the qualifying reasons for leave?**

Residents/Fellows may request a leave under this program for the following reasons:

- **Medical** – due to your own serious health condition
- **Parental** – for the birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care, and/or to bond with your newborn or newly-placed child
- **Caregiver** – to care for your spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition.

## DURATION

**Q. How much paid time do I have available under this program?**

This program provides up to 6 weeks of paid leave and will run concurrently with any additional leave programs (e.g., Family Medical Leave Act (“FMLA”), Company Medical Leave, etc.

**Q. What if I use less than the 6 weeks of leave that is provided under this program?**

If a single leave claim is less than six (6) weeks, you may apply for leave again under this program, up to a total of six weeks.



## Resident/Fellow Parental, Medical and Caregiver Leave 2023 FAQs

**Note:** Up to two (2) weeks of accrued Paid Time Off (PTO) and/or Extended Illness Bank (EIB), if applicable, will be used to supplement pay. See the "Pay While on a Leave" section for more information.

**Q. If I exhaust my 6 weeks of paid leave under this program and I require additional time off, am I still eligible to continue my leave of absence and apply for short-term disability?**

Yes, if you have exhausted your paid leave under this program and you meet the eligibility requirements to continue your leave of absence, you may remain out and apply for short-term disability. See the [Leave of Absence policy](#) for more information.

**Q. If I use my paid leave under this program and require another leave of absence later, will I be eligible to apply again for a leave of absence and/or short-term disability?**

Yes, if you have exhausted your paid leave under this program and you meet the eligibility requirements, you may apply for other leaves of absence and/or short-term disability in the future. See the [Leave of Absence policy](#) for more information.

**Q. If I exhaust 6 weeks of leave during my residency program and then transition to a fellowship, will my eligibility reset?**

Yes, if you complete your residency and begin a new program as a Fellow, you will be eligible to apply for leave under this program again.

**Q. Can the paid leave under this program be taken intermittently?**

No, paid leave under this program will only apply to a continuous leave of absence. See the [Leave of Absence policy](#) for more information intermittent leave available through Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

### APPLYING FOR LEAVE

**Q. How do I request a leave of absence under this program?**

Residents/Fellows seeking a leave of absence should contact the BSWH Absence Center (contact information below) as well as notify your Program Director/Administrator.

- Call the BSWH Absence Center at 844-511-5762 Monday – Friday from 7a.m. to 7 p.m. CST
- Use the self-service portal available at [www.mysedgwick.com/bswh](http://www.mysedgwick.com/bswh).

**Q. How much notice should I provide when needing a leave of absence?**

You should provide at least (30) days advance notice of your proposed leave. When advance notice is not possible, notice should be given as soon as practicable.

### PAY WHILE ON LEAVE

**Q. Will I receive pay while on a Resident/Fellow leave of absence?**

This program provides up to 6 weeks of paid leave, which is paired with your available time off balances. The below chart provides additional details on how you will be paid:



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## Resident/Fellow Parental, Medical and Caregiver Leave 2023 FAQs

If you are enrolled in short-term disability:

Enrolled in STD	Leave Type	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
	Medical (Self)	EIB or PTO	Paid Leave				
	Maternity	EIB or PTO	Paid Leave				
	Parental (non-birthing parent)	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave
	Adoption	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave
	Caregiver	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave

If additional medical leave is needed beyond the 6 weeks provided under this program, you may be eligible for pay under our short-term disability program.

If you are NOT enrolled in short-term disability:

Not enrolled in STD	Leave Type	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
	Medical (Self)	EIB or PTO	EIB or PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave
	Maternity	EIB or PTO	EIB or PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave
	Parental (non-birthing parent)	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave
	Adoption	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave
	Caregiver	PTO	PTO	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave	Paid Leave

If additional medical leave is needed beyond the 6 weeks provided under this program, your available EIB or PTO would be applied to your absences until it is exhausted. Once exhausted, your time off would be unpaid.

**Q. How will I be paid if I am out less than 6 weeks?**

If your leave is less than 6 weeks, you may reference the charts above for only the number of weeks you will be out. For example, if you are out for 3 weeks, you would look at the Weeks 1 through 3 columns only.



## Resident/Fellow Parental, Medical and Caregiver Leave 2023 FAQs

### BENEFITS WHILE ON LEAVE

**Q. What will happen to my benefits while I'm on a leave of absence?**

While you are on a paid leave of absence under this program, your benefit premiums will continue to deduct from your paycheck and coverage will continue.

Should you need additional time off beyond the 6 weeks of paid time provided under this program and you exhaust all available time off balance(s) (i.e. no longer receiving a paycheck), you will be billed for benefit premiums by Optum, our Direct Bill vendor.



## BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

An employee is eligible for bereavement pay for a maximum of two (2) bereavement events per calendar year. Qualifying Bereavement Leave cannot exceed three (3) days and a maximum of thirty-six (36) hours based on authorized daily work hours. Employees who need additional time off may request to use PTO. If PTO has been exhausted, an employee may request unpaid leave for the additional time off.

Bereavement Leave is for the following designated individuals:

- Spouse
- Child/Step-Child
- Parent/Step-Parent
- Brother/Sister
- Grandparent
- Grandchild
- Father-in-Law/Mother-in-Law
- Son-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law

## INTERVIEW LEAVE

Interview leave must be approved by the House Staff's Program Director and attending physician on the service that will be affected by the leave, if applicable. All leave must be supported and documented by your program; check with your program administrator if an absence form is required.

Each upper-level House Staff is allowed up to five (5) total days of leave with pay, during training at Baylor Scott & White, to interview for fellowships or practice opportunities. Interview leave is available only during the "junior" and "senior" years of training and is at the discretion/approval of the Program Director. Additional interview leave *may* be granted at the discretion of the Program Director.

This leave is expressly intended for only fellowship or job interviews. Other related activities are not applicable to this leave.

## PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A Personal Leave of Absence must be approved by the Program Director and attending physician on the service that will be affected by the leave, if applicable. All leave must be documented within the program.

Requests for leaves of absence will be evaluated on the merits of the request and will be granted or denied in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and accreditation requirements.

A leave of absence may be in part paid leave and/or leave without pay. When the leave of absence is requested for medical reasons (including pregnancy), the leave must be compliant with the Sick Leave Policy as applicable. Paid sick leave may be utilized only if the leave is for medical reasons.

The total length of a leave of absence must be consistent with satisfactory completion of training (credit toward specialty board qualification), which will be determined by the individual programs.

*Leave without pay may necessitate payment by the House Staff for medical insurance coverage during the stipulated period of leave. Arrangements should be made with the Human Resources Benefits office prior to beginning the leave, if necessary, for the House Staff to pay premiums.*

## MILITARY LEAVE

Military leave must be approved by the House Staff's Program Director and attending physician on the service that will be affected by the leave, if applicable. All leave procedures must be documented within the program.

Participation in the National Guard or military reserve activities is allowed but must be coordinated with and approved by the Program Director. Absences for participation in this activity are charged to leave without pay or may be charged to Paid Time Off, if desired. When benefit time is depleted, they will be placed on leave without pay status.

A House Staff inducted, ordered, or enlisted into active service will be placed on leave of absence status effective the date of written orders to report. When released from military obligations, House Staff has 90 days to notify the Program Director to request reinstatement into training program.

During the leave of absence, medical and dental coverage may be continued. When in an unpaid status, the House Staff is responsible for full payment of premium.

## EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

Educational leave must be approved and is at the discretion of the Program Director and attending physician on the service that will be affected by the leave, if applicable. All leave must be documented by the program and may require an absence form. Check with your program administrator to see if your program requires one.

Up to Five (5) days of educational leave are granted to all House Staff annually to attend educational conferences or meetings of their choice.

Additional time may be granted by the Program Director for attendance at meetings of professional organizations in which residents occupy official positions as officers or representatives (i.e., official representative to the TMA resident section). Attendance must have prior approval of the Program Director and be supported by documentation describing the meeting/conference, i.e., brochure, registration, etc.

*End of Leave Policies*

## INSURANCE POLICIES/EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (Rev 04/2024)

Information related to salary and benefits can be managed through by calling [PeoplePlace](#) at: 1-844-41-PLACE (75223).

### INSURANCE

Medical insurance coverage is provided for the House Staff employees at a shared cost to the House Staff, dependent upon health plan.

Baylor Scott & White Health offers three medical plan options: <https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits>

Dependent coverage (parent/child(ren), couple and family) is available to all house staff. **New** dependents (spouses and/or children, stepchildren, etc.) may be added to Health Plan coverage by notifying [PeoplePlace](#) with a Qualifying Life Changing Event. Employees must submit a Life Event within 30 days of the qualifying life event in [PeoplePlace](#) by selecting the Benefits tile or contacting [PeoplePlace](#) 844-41-PLACE (75223) for assistance. Coverage is effective from the day of the event (i.e., birth date, marriage date).

Prescription Drug Benefits are dependent upon the election of your health insurance plan.

Dental insurance is an optional benefit. Detailed information on medical benefits coverage and premium rates is available at our [BSWH Benefits Page](#).

Baylor Scott & White Health provides Basic Life with supplemental ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT (AD&D) insurance at no cost. Additional coverage may be purchased on a voluntary basis. Coverage may include spouse and children. Details on AD&D benefits coverage and premium rates are available through Human Resources. Temporary and long-term disability insurance is provided to physician and non-physician House Staff. For additional information, visit the [BSWH Benefits Page](#).

### SHORT-TERM DISABILITY (STD) PLAN (IR- IV.G.1-2A)

Safety and support for the staff at Baylor Scott & White is a very high priority, and this includes providing some level of financial security should something unexpected occur. Short-term disability may be taken for females wishing to extend their maternity leave and be compensated, as well as those healthcare needs involving longer periods of recovery. You will be automatically enrolled in Short Term Disability. If you opt-out of the short-term disability (STD) plan, you will **not** receive paid leave beyond the six weeks provided by the GME office. Keep in mind, if you opt out of STD when first eligible, future coverage may be subject to pre-existing condition provision. Visit the [BSWH Benefits Page](#) for more information.

## LONG-TERM DISABILITY (LTD) PLAN (IR- IV.G.1-2A)

Basic long-term disability insurance is provided to all House Staff at no cost. Some pre-existing condition limitations may apply. For details on eligibility and coverage start-date, visit the [BSWH Benefits page](#).

## FLEXIBLE SPENDING

The Baylor Scott & White Health Flexible Spending Plan is an employee benefit that provides a pre-determined amount elected by employee and front-loaded on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It allows payment of health and dental insurance premiums, out-of-pocket medical/dental care and dependent childcare expenses with tax-free dollars, i.e., these expenses are deducted from gross pay before federal income and Social Security taxes are paid. Participation is voluntary. An opportunity to enroll in the plan is initially presented at orientation. Pre-tax deductions for health and dental premiums are automatic after the initial year of enrollment; however, enrollment in the medical/dental and childcare reimbursement account must be renewed annually. Elections made at the time of enrollment cannot be changed during the year except in the event of change in employment or family status.

## WELLNESS BENEFITS

BSWH Live Well is the new wellness benefits hub for all House Staff members. This new platform replaces the previous Thrive wellness resources. For specific wellness information, visit [livewellbswh.com/fair/index](https://livewellbswh.com/fair/index). You will click on the link -> Join us now -> Passcode: **BSWRF**  
General information is also available at: <https://www.bswhealth.com/benefits/livewell>.  
Some benefits may be subject to annual enrollment.

## PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY (IR- IV.F.1)

Baylor Scott & White Health fully provides professional liability insurance for House Staff which covers their activities at Baylor Scott & White and when on educational assignment in affiliated hospitals and clinics. BSWH's self-insurance covers up to \$1,000,000 for each occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate per annum. This coverage includes legal defense to be determined by BSWH. Professional liability coverage includes legal defense and protection against awards from claims reported or filed during participation in each of its ACGME-accredited programs, or after completion of the program(s) if the alleged acts or omissions of a resident/fellow are within the scope of the program(s).

Coverage would continue for claims that occurred during the program but are made after program completion. This coverage is on the condition that the physician shall cooperate fully, return to Round Rock for conferences, depositions, trial, and be available in Round Rock as needed in the judgment for Baylor Scott & White defense counsel. Failure to cooperate, as set forth above, shall be grounds for denying defense and for denying coverage on the claim, at the sole discretion of Baylor Scott & White.

### STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENT

Certain undergraduate and medical school loans can be deferred for part or all of a House Staff's training period. The Program Administrator of the residency program or The Graduate Medical Education is authorized to sign deferment and forbearance forms. If you have loan deferment forms that need to be completed, please complete your portion and bring them to your Program Administrators or the GME Manager.

*End of Insurance Policies/Employee Benefits*

## Educational Enhancement Benefits Policy (Rev 09/2024)

### EDUCATION MATERIAL ALLOWANCE

An educational allowance of \$500 is made available to all House Staff upon employment for the duration of their categorical residency and one subspecialty fellowship. It is at the discretion of the program and according to Baylor Scott & White Policy. Please note reimbursement must be submitted in Concur within 60 days from date of purchase. Prior to submitting your expense report in Concur, your program administrator **must** review/approve your expense and note the review in Concur. Upon submission of original **itemized** receipts (and approval of the Program Director), House Staff may receive reimbursement for purchases of medical texts, resource materials and fees associated with societal memberships and USMLE or its equivalent Exam (Step 3) Concur permits only 2 expense reports per month. Please note the following is not an exhaustive list; however, the following are the more frequently asked for reimbursement and **not reimbursable**. Medical equipment (i.e. stethoscopes, face shields, loupes), Android phone/Accessories, iPhone/Accessories, Apple iPad Mini/Accessories, Apple iPad Air/Accessories, Apple iPad Pro/Accessories, Droid Tablets, Notebooks, Electronic book readers, Kindle, Computer hardware, Software, Laptop, Dragon Headset or Dragon PowerMic). Please check with your program administrator, or the GME Manager, **prior** to making a purchase; otherwise, **you will not get reimbursed**. If the allowance is not used for above-mentioned allowable materials, it may be used for payment toward expenses associated with professional meetings that are not being funded by the Training Texas Physician Account and in accordance with the Baylor Scott & White Health Business Travel & Expense Policy.

### GME SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY TRAVEL FUND

#### Resident/Fellow Scholarship Travel Policy

The Resident/Fellow Scholarship Travel Policy is intended to support scholarly activity related travel of Baylor Scott & White Health GME Residents/Fellows. This policy is dedicated for travel to professional meetings in which the trainee is an author of an abstract accepted for presentation,. The GMEC appointed Policy Subcommittee manages the policy in collaboration with the GME Office. The following guidelines provide the parameters for appropriate travel-related expenses and procedures.

*For the most updated information, visit:*

<https://bsw.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?stoken=ce9e5a30-8d25-4b7f-bff7-de103f2c1131&dtoken=b50b1164-b2ce-41b4-998a-e2b651c273e0>

## **E-1.1 Sponsoring Institution Travel**

For the most up-to-date policies regarding Travel & Business Expense Reimbursements, visit:

<https://bsw.policymedical.net/policymed/anonymous/docViewer?token=ce9e5a30-8d25-4b7f-bff7-de103f2c1131&token=b50b1164-b2ce-41b4-998a-e2b651c273e0>

1.1.1 All and any resident/fellow scholarly activity related travel which has been accepted for presentation at a conference and representing BSWH business will be reviewed by the Program Director. This ensures project integrity of any work presented outside our system and allows for a database of scholarship accomplished by all GME programs.

1.1.2 All travel related to scholarly activity to be reimbursed by any BSWH funds will be guided by the BSWH Travel & Business Expense Reimbursement policy and must be booked through the approved travel vendor on the BSWH Corporate travel account. If travel is booked with any other travel vendor, on a personal credit card, BSWH will not reimburse the individual. Researching flight and hotel options prior to engaging the approved travel vendor (FOX World Travel) often allows less expensive travel options to be selected.

1.1.3 Request for travel should be accompanied with a travel request form, a copy of conference information with dated acceptance notice and copy of the abstract to be submitted to the Program Director. Documents should be submitted to the GME Office for review of travel requests. A verification of project integrity will be returned as soon as possible.

## **E-1.2 GME Scholarly Activity Travel Fund**

1.2.1 This fund is available to support resident/fellow travel for presentation of workshops, abstracts, papers or posters related to regulatory-approved (IRB, IACUC, and/or IBC) research and/or quality improvement or educational scholarly activity at BSWH. Case reports involving one or two patients may be funded by the GME Scholarly Activity Travel Fund.

1.2.2 One guaranteed fund of up to \$1,500 will be allowed per resident/fellow once each fiscal year (aligns with academic year), if presenting a poster or oral presentation **as the first author or presenting author**. Residents/Fellows receiving guaranteed funding will be required to meet policy E-1.1 and requirements described herein. Should the resident/fellow request additional funds, they must seek Program Director approval. Should the resident/fellow request attendance of more than one conference per academic year, they must seek Program Director approval.

1.2.3 Funding will be granted to trainees that have been mentored by a BSW physician or established investigator in the residency/fellowship program. Residents/fellows must give credit to their respective BSW program and at least one BSW faculty member.

1.2.4 The total amount of travel award is not to exceed \$1,500 per fiscal year. Unused GME Scholarly Activity Travel Funds do not roll over into the next fiscal year. Travelers will be required to reimburse any coverages, or departments may use department/foundation funds to augment travel exceeding \$1,500.

1.2.5 Travel outside of the 48 contiguous United States is disallowed; however, national meetings in large Canadian cities (e.g. Toronto) will be considered. Exceptions include extraordinary scholarship that is pre-approved by the GME DIO and VP of Education before the abstract is submitted. Once pre-approval is granted, the request will be routed for approval to a designated BSWH System Executive Vice President, per the BSWH Travel & Business Expense Reimbursement policy.

1.2.6 All expense reimbursement practices will be guided by the BSWH Travel & Business Expense Reimbursement policy in addition to the following guidelines. Expenses allowed by the GME Scholarly Activity Travel Fund are limited to airfare to and from the conference, lodging for up to two nights (additional days subject to Program Director approval), and basic meeting registration fees (pre-conference and post-conference fees will not be reimbursed). Transportation-associated expenses (i.e.

parking, mileage, rental car, etc.) are not allowable expenses; however, mileage to a meeting will be reimbursed when driving is the mode of travel to the meeting and less costly than air travel.

Meals will be considered a reimbursable expense in accordance with line 7.1.1 of the Travel & Business Expense Reimbursements BSW policy.

1.2.7 All travel, including but not limited to airfare and lodging, must be booked through FOX World Travel, the BSWH approved travel vendor. All business travel related to this fund must be booked using the Department Residency/Fellowship Program Cost Center; after travel, the cost center will be reimbursed by this fund.

1.2.8 To receive reimbursement after the meeting, original, itemized receipts must be submitted through Concur no later than 30 days following the completion of travel. Late submissions will not be reimbursed.

1.2.9 Resident/fellow must use educational days off to attend conferences at the approval of the Program Director. Residents/fellows are provided with 5 educational days per academic year.

1.2.10 Attendance of Chief conferences are funded by individual programs, not included within the GME Scholarly Activity Travel Fund.

*End of Scholarly Activity Travel Policy*

## POST-TRAVEL (PROCESS)

After travel, all reimbursements will need to be submitted through Concur with copies of approval letter, airfare itinerary, hotel receipt, (if hotel room is shared, traveler should only put their portion of the hotel) and prior reimbursements, included in the final expense report, **no later than 30 days following the completion of travel**. For the reimbursement title, please put “Scholarly Travel Award – Dates of Travel.” To receive reimbursement, original receipts must be submitted through Concur no later than 30 days following the completion of the travel, or it will not be reimbursed.

- All reimbursements will be charged to the traveler’s home cost center.
- The Travel Awards are not associated with CME; therefore, when completing your reimbursements through Concur **DO NOT select CME**.

### Step 1: Connect to Concur

Website: <https://www.concursolutions.com>

User ID: Your Employee ID @BSWHealth.org ([00999999@BSWHealth.org](mailto:00999999@BSWHealth.org))

*Contact your program administrator if you do not know your ID.*

SSO: You must select the “Sign in with SSO” option to proceed to password set-up

Password: First Time Login = BSWH + last 4 digits of your Social Security #  
(Ex: BSWH6789)

### Step 2: Set up your profile

Personal Information

Enter telephone contact information

Verify your email address (click on the “verify” link)

Add an emergency contact

**Add Delegate:** Your Program Administrator must be your delegate for your Concur Expense Reporting. Add them under Profile Settings --> Expense Delegates --> Search by Name Prior to

submitting your expense report, your program administrator must review the report, or it will be returned to you which may cause a delay in your reimbursement.

Enter your banking information. All expense reports are reimbursed via direct deposit and this field is required.

Other Settings

Activate E-Receipts

Click Mobile Registration to get started with the mobile app and to set a pin

Concur help is online at <https://www.concursolutions.com>

**Step 3: Download Mobile Apps to your smart phone: Concur and/or Expenselt**

If applicable, copies of **itemized** receipts are required for all lodging, meals, commercial transportation, airport parking, taxi, ride-share services and any other allowable incidental costs. FOX World Travel Booking Fees must also be included in the expense report, if applicable.

*End of Post Travel (Process) Policy*

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

If funding is available through House Staff's Department/Program, House Staff may attend a professional organization meeting to fulfill obligations of official positions as officers or committee members of a professional organization at one national or one state meeting per academic year. All hotel and travel arrangements **must** be booked through Concur Fox World Travel.

Attendance of these organizational activities will require Program Director approval.

The time away is charged to miscellaneous time, not VACATION LEAVE or education leave. All allowable **itemized** receipted expenses will be reimbursed **up to \$1,500**.

*End of Professional Organization Activities Policy*

## Miscellaneous Policies (Rev 06/2024)

### PERSONNEL FILE

A permanent file for each House Staff is maintained by the program. This file contains evaluations prepared by the supervisory staff and other healthcare professionals. As required by the ACGME, it will include a final summative evaluation completed by your Program Director and reviewed by you prior to your graduation [termination]. Additionally, your file will retain other academic, professional and biographical information.

### PHOTOGRAPH

Each House Staff will have his/her photograph on file with the Baylor Scott & White Health Biomedical Communications Department (Photography). Photographs will be taken in conjunction with GME On-boarding week, or off-cycle residents will be scheduled as close to their hire date as possible.

### PUBLICATIONS

Scholarly activities by House Staff are encouraged. To be eligible for publication, manuscripts prepared by House Staff must be reviewed and approved by the Program Director. Program faculty will help prepare manuscripts for submission to journals by formatting to journal requirements and offering guidance for navigating online submission portals, editing addresses, overall structure, logic, and flow before progressing to issues of grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Assistance in choosing a journal also is available. Scholarly activities by House Staff should provide credit to the sponsoring institution, training program, and faculty members, as applicable.

### SCHEDULES

On-line call schedules can be found at: <https://app.qgenda.com/Dashboard/Company/374e088d-9bf5-4d53-bef1-7f41bbe4a627>

Rotation, didactic, and other required activity schedules are provided by respective residency and fellowship programs. House Staff should contact their program administrator for additional details, as needed.

### VOLUNTARY TERMINATION

Termination of training is to be discussed with, and approved by, the Program Director. An official letter of resignation must be submitted and kept on file with the program. House Staff are not eligible for pay for unused Paid Time Off or Extended Illness Bank (EIB).

### PROGRAM COMPLETION

A postgraduate medical education program is not considered completed until the House Staff has fulfilled all the days specified in their appointment letter and all steps of the program and institutional requirements, including exit clearance.

At the discretion of the Program Director failure to complete these steps will jeopardize eligibility for Specialty Board Examination, and completion of future residency/fellowship verifications. Upon the satisfactory completion of a House Staff's training, a certificate attesting the type of training, length and signature of the Program Director shall be awarded to each House Staff. This certificate will become a part of the House Staff's permanent record by being uploaded into New Innovations.

### EXIT CLEARANCE

Each House Staff is required to complete an Exit Clearance Form upon separation from Baylor Scott & White for any reason. Exit Clearance forms can be accessed via [New Innovations](#) or obtained from your Program Administrator. This includes any items that should be returned to the Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System (CTVHS).

*End of Miscellaneous Policy*

*Please contact Taylor Chadwick, GME Office, with any suggested changes for the House Staff Handbook.*

[Taylor.Chadwick@bswhealth.org](mailto:Taylor.Chadwick@bswhealth.org)

***Thank you for all that you do!***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Rakesh", written over a horizontal line.

**Rakesh Surapaneni, MD  
DIO/ GMEC Chair**