

Continuation of GME Support in Event of Disaster

Substantial Disruption in patient care or education (ACGME Institutional Requirements IV.N and IV.N.1.)

Purpose: ACGME requires the Sponsoring Institution to maintain a policy consistent with ACGME Policies and Procedures that addresses administrative support for each of its ACGME-accredited Programs and resident/fellows in the event of a disaster or interruption in patient care or education

Definition of Disaster: An event or set of events causing significant alteration to the residency experience at one or more residency programs.

Extreme emergent situation: A local event (such as healthcare system disaster or an epidemic) that affects resident education or the work environment but does not rise to the level of an ACGME-declared disaster in the ACGME Policies and Procedures

Policy: PrimaryPlus acknowledges its ongoing support of graduate medical education in the face of any disaster (natural or otherwise) that interrupts the hospital/clinic based educational process. This ongoing support consists of the following commitments:

- The DIO/CEO and GMCEC will strive to ensure financial and logistical support of residents until normal educational site(s) resume clinical activity.
- The Office of Graduate Medical Education will maintain contact with all residents during any times of disruption, and provide assistance toward resuming the educational experience as soon as possible.
- The Office of Graduate Medical Education will coordinate efforts to provide an alternate educational venue that is convenient and provides appropriate educational experience.

If these regional clinical sites are not available, the Program Director and Chair, along with the Graduate Medical Education Office, will strive to place residents in an educationally rewarding environment as close to this region as possible. The various programs will coordinate their efforts with the appropriate Residency Review Committee and the ACGME to ensure an approved experience for the displaced residents. In the aftermath of the disruption of graduate medical education, PrimaryPlus will work to restore the clinical teaching environment as soon as possible so that residents may return to their pre-disaster hospital/clinic setting.

Applicable Requirements and Policies

ACGME Institutional Requirements Effective 7/1/22 (IV.N-IV.N.1.)

- **Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education:** The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy consistent with ACGME Policies and Procedures that addresses support for each of its ACGME-accredited programs and residents/fellows in the event of a disaster or other substantial disruption in patient care or education. (Core)

- This policy must include information about assistance for continuation of salary, benefits, professional liability coverage, and resident/fellow assignments. (Core)

ACGME Policies and Procedures Effective 2/5/22 (25.00-25.40)

- ACGME Policy and Procedures to Address Extraordinary Circumstances

The ACGME may invoke the Extraordinary Circumstances policy in response to circumstances that significantly alter the ability of a Sponsoring Institution and its programs to support graduate medical education. Examples of extraordinary circumstances include an abrupt hospital closure, a natural disaster, or a catastrophic loss of funding. The invocation of the Extraordinary Circumstances policy formalizes the ACGME's oversight and support of Sponsoring Institutions' and programs' efforts to ensure the continuation of residents'/fellows' educational experiences in compliance with the applicable ACGME Requirements. The ACGME shall consider invocation of the Extraordinary Circumstances policy at the request of a Sponsoring Institution's designated institutional official, in response to verified public information, or on the basis of other information received by the ACGME

- ACGME Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstances

If the ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with ACGME Board Chair determines that a Sponsoring Institution's ability to support graduate medical education has been significantly altered, the ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer shall invoke the Extraordinary Circumstances policy.

Upon invocation of the Extraordinary Circumstances policy, a notice shall be posted on the ACGME website with information relating to the ACGME's response to the extraordinary circumstance. In this notice, the ACGME shall provide relevant ACGME contact information.

- Sponsoring Institutions

When the Extraordinary Circumstances policy is invoked, the designated institutional official (DIO), or designee(s), on behalf of the affected Sponsoring Institution, shall:

- a) Contact the ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer, or designee, to provide preliminary information regarding any major changes to the Sponsoring Institution and its programs resulting from the extraordinary circumstances within 10 days of the invocation of the policy
- b) Provide a plan describing the continuation of residents'/fellows' educational experiences and any major changes to the Sponsoring Institution and its programs, consistent with the applicable ACGME Requirements, to the ACGME President and Chief Executive Officer within 30 days of the invocation of the policy, unless another due date is approved by the ACGME;

- c) Arrange timely reassignment of residents and fellows, including their temporary or permanent transfers to other ACGME-accredited programs as needed to ensure they can continue their education;
 - d) Ensure that residents and fellows are prospectively informed of the estimated duration of any temporary transfer to another ACGME-accredited program; and
 - e) Ensure that residents/fellows continually receive timely information regarding reassignments, transfer arrangements, and/or major changes to the Sponsoring Institution or its programs.
- Resident/Fellow Transfers and Program Changes

Sponsoring Institutions and programs must minimize disruption to resident/fellow education due to extraordinary circumstances and must consider the preferences of residents/fellows when arranging temporary or permanent transfers to other ACGME-accredited and ACGME-recognized programs.

Programs must appoint transferring residents to approved positions and may request temporary or permanent increases in resident/fellow complement from their respective ACGME Review and Recognition Committees through the Accreditation Data System (ADS). Under extraordinary circumstances, the ACGME review and Recognition Committees shall expedite their review of requests for temporary or permanent complement increases.

An ACGME Review or Recognition Committee shall expedite review of a program's request to add or delete participating sites to change its educational format if the request is associated with a declaration of extraordinary circumstances.

At its discretion, the ACGME may determine a schedule for expedited review of applications for new programs that intend to accept transferring residents/fellows under extraordinary circumstances. If applications will be reviewed on an expedited basis, notice of the expedited review, including information about submission due date(s), shall be provided on the ACGME website.

- Site Visits

Upon invocation of the Extraordinary Circumstances policy, the ACGME may determine that one or more accreditation or recognition site visits is required. Prior to the visit(s), the designated institutional official(s) shall receive notification of the advance information that will be required. This information, as well as information received by the ACGME during these accreditation or recognition site visits, may be used in the accreditation or recognition process (Policies 18.20-18.24;21.30-21.34). Accreditation or recognition site visits under extraordinary circumstances may also be used to exchange information that supports the continuation of residents'/fellows' educational experiences in compliance with applicable ACGME Requirements.

GMEC Approved 9/19/22

