

House Staff Manual

MedStar Health

Academic Year 2024-2025

		Policies & Procedures

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The MedStar Health house staff manual applies to all residents and fellows in all MedStar Health training programs and at all MedStar Health sites, locations, and hospitals.

Welcome from Stephen R.T. Evans, MD

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the leading academic health system in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region. I hope you share our excitement and enthusiasm to be part of MedStar Health, and it is the start of a long and successful career at our organization. MedStar is committed to supporting you as you journey through the remarkable process of becoming a doctor.

At MedStar, we are committed to our vision to be the trusted leader in caring for people and advancing health. It drives our passion and purpose every day. We provide a culture of learning that cultivates knowledge through research, innovation and education, with an ever-present focus on our high reliability organization (HRO) journey that provides the highest levels of quality and safety to our patients. Our mission is to serve our patients, those who care for them and our communities, and we will rely on each of you to help deliver on this commitment. You have an important job as students, and we are honored to guide you in becoming the best and brightest physicians of the future.

We also look forward to witnessing your transformation from student to physician. Our system, leaders and associates support your evolution into world-class clinicians, educators, scientists, and leaders. Thank you in advance for your curiosity, innovative ideas and commitment to advancing health. I assure you it is a worthwhile and unforgettable experience, and I am confident your contributions will help advance your growth as a physician and the strength of our MedStar Health system.

Stephen R.T. Evans, MD
Executive Vice President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer
MedStar Health

Policies

Academic Improvement Policy

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy and process for all graduate medical education (GME) programs at MedStar Health to use in the normal process of evaluating and assessing competence and progress of House Staff. Specifically, this policy will address the process to be utilized when a resident/fellow is not meeting the academic expectations of a program, and therefore, fails to progress.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all House Staff officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a GME program.

Objective Feedback – Assessments and evaluations that are typically structured and scored or rated based on pre-determined criteria that are uniformly applied. Examples include but are not limited to tests, shelf exams, USMLE scores, OSCEs, etc,

Subjective Feedback – Assessments and evaluations that are made by faculty and other evaluators, structured or unstructured, based on their professional judgments and opinions. Examples include but are not limited to rotational evaluations, verbal feedback, 360 evaluations, etc.

IV. Process

A. Performance Feedback: All residents and fellows should be provided routine feedback regarding their performance that is consistent with the educational program. Some examples of feedback include verbal feedback, rotational evaluations, semi-annual evaluations, unsolicited feedback, and mentoring (See Evaluation Policy).

B. Clinical Competency Committee: Each residency training program must have a Clinical Competency Committee (“CCC”)¹ that is responsible for routinely assessing house officer performance and making recommendations to the Program Director (see Clinical Competency Committee Policy).

C. “Letter of Deficiency”: When a house officer does not show improvement following normal feedback (verbal, written, structured or unstructured), a “Letter of Deficiency” should be prepared and delivered to the house officer. The “Letter of Deficiency” must be signed by the program director and should be co-signed by the Assistant Vice President, GME or his/her designee. The purpose of the “Letter of Deficiency” is to amplify the message and clearly articulate the house officer’s deficiencies. They should be competency based. The “Letter of Deficiency” should provide the house officer with clear notice of the identified deficiency(s) and an opportunity to improve. Letters of deficiency generally require the house officer to develop an independent learning plan that will be discussed and endorsed by the program director or advisor. A letter of deficiency is simply feedback, and not considered to be a reportable action. Letters of deficiency should be prepared by the program director or their designee. A final summative assessment (FSA) will be prepared by the program director and/or department for all trainees upon leaving the program. The FSA should be a fair and balanced reflection of academic and pro-

¹ The Clinical Competency Committee may be referred to as the “Progress and Promotions Committee” or other terminology. This is a departmental committee that consists of the faculty and others as deemed appropriate by the department. This committee should meet regularly to assess resident/fellow performance and make recommendations to the program director regarding further action.

fessional performance throughout the training course, including both strengths as well as areas identified for improvement. A copy of the finalized FSA should be shared with the resident/fellow. The content of the FSA is not open to discussion or negotiation by the resident/fellow, and as such is not subject for due process or similar review.

D. Failure to Cure the Deficiency: If the Program Director determines that a house officer is not meeting academic standards, or has failed to satisfactorily cure deficiencies. The program director may consider the following in determining whether or not to take further action: Review of the entire academic record, subjective and objective assessments and evaluations, feedback from the faculty, and feedback from the Clinical Competency Committee.

The Program Director may elect to take further action, which may include one or more of the following steps:

- i. Additional Letter of Deficiency, OR
- ii. Reportable Actions:
 - 1) Election not to promote to the next PGY level
 - 2) Extension of contract, which may include extension of the defined training period. Note that extension of training for non-academic reasons, such as approved medical leave, is not subject for due process review.
 - 3) Dismissal from the residency or fellowship program

Reportable Actions: The decision not to promote a house officer to the next PGY Level, to extend a house officer's contract, to extend a house officer's defined period of training, to deny a house officer credit for a previously completed rotation, and/or to terminate the house officer's participation in a residency or fellowship program are each considered "reportable actions." Reportable Actions are those actions that the Program must disclose to others upon request, including without limitation, future employers, privileging hospitals, credentialing boards, and licensing and specialty boards. House Officers who are subject to a Reportable Action may request a review of the decision as provided in this Policy.

E. Request for Review: A review of the decision to take a Reportable Action may be requested by the house officer. A Request for Review should be submitted to the Assistant Vice President, GME or their designee within fourteen (14) days of learning of the Reportable Action. Upon receipt of a Request for Review, the Assistant Vice President, GME will first determine whether the matter is reviewable under this Policy, and if so, the Assistant Vice President, GME shall appoint a neutral physician reviewer. Unless there is a conflict of interest, the initial physician reviewer will be the Associate Designated Institutional Official (DIO) of the entity, who will:

- i. Review the complaint
- ii. Meet with the house officer
- iii. Review the house officer's entire academic record
- iv. Discuss with the program director
- v. Consider any extenuating circumstances
- vi. Consult with others, as appropriate, to assist in the decision making process; and
- vii. Determine whether this Policy was followed. Specifically that the house officer received notice and an opportunity to cure, and the decision to take the Reportable Action was reasonably made.

The Assistant Vice President, GME will:

- i. Appoint the physician reviewer (the Associate DIO will serve as the first level reviewer unless there is a conflict of interest)
- ii. Assist the physician reviewer to identify other potential participants, if warranted and requested by the physician reviewer

- iii. Attend all meetings held by the physician reviewer
- iv. Coordinate communications between the physician reviewer and the house officer
- v. Monitor timely completion of the review process
- vi. Notify the Physician Chair of the System GMEC and Corporate Vice President, Academic Affairs (VPAA) of the request for review

F. Opportunity for a Final Review: If either the house officer or the program director disagree with the decision of the physician reviewer, either can request a final review of the decision to take a Reportable Action. This final review is conducted by the Physician Chair of the System GMEC, together with the Corporate Vice President for Academic Affairs or their designee. A request for final review shall be submitted to the Corporate Vice President for Academic Affairs within fourteen (14) days of learning of the Physician Reviewer's decision. The roles of these individuals and the process are generally the same as described in the "Request for Review" above; however, the report of the first level review will be utilized in this decision making process. The final reviewer will seek to determine additional information, extenuating circumstances, or matters that were not covered in the initial review process. The decision of the Physician Chair of the System GMEC constitutes a final and binding decision. Upon conclusion of the review, a report of the final review will be provided to both the house officer and the program director.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Accommodations for Individuals with Special Needs Policy

Policy Statement

MedStar Health is an equal opportunity employer. It is committed to treating individuals with disabilities in a fair, lawful and equitable manner; thereby providing them with the same employment opportunities, terms and conditions, benefits and privileges as individuals without disabilities, as required by applicable federal, state or local laws. This commitment extends to individuals who are current employees or job applicants.

MedStar Health will, among other things, provide individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodations to apply for employment, participate in the interview process, perform essential functions of the relevant position, and enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are enjoyed by similarly situated employees who do not have disabilities.

MedStar Health prohibits the unlawful use of an individual's physical or mental disability, need for a reasonable accommodation, or relationship with an individual with a disability as determining factors in employment decisions. Rather, our focus is on objective criteria, such as an applicant's or employee's skills, abilities and other job or business-related factors.

Philosophy Statement

MedStar Health is committed to being an employer of choice by attracting, developing and retaining skilled and engaged associates through the use of best practice employment procedures.

Procedure

In order to further MedStar Health's success in carrying out these important commitments, this policy provides guidance on accommodating job applicants and associates in the workplace. It also outlines how job applicants or associates may request reasonable accommodations. This reasonable accommodation procedure may be initiated either by an employee/new hire/ applicant or by a MedStar leader, Human Resources and/or Occupational Health. Because of the individualized nature of an individual's disability limitations, job duties, and workplace needs and business concerns, the applicant/employee and leaders, Human Resources and/or Occupational Health should engage in an interactive process.

I. Accommodating Disabled Job Applicants and Candidates

A. Reasonable Accommodations

Some job applicants who are disabled may be in need of reasonable accommodations in order to apply and/or interview for available job positions. For example, a job applicant with a visual disability may need assistance completing a written application or an applicant with a hearing disability may need assistance in participating in an oral interview (i.e., providing a sign language interpreter).

Job applicants may request accommodations to participate in the interview process when submitting their applications for employment. In addition, if an applicant informs the department leader, supervisor or associate involved in the application/interview process that he/she needs an accommodation to participate in the interview process, the leader, supervisor or associate should notify Human Resources for advice and assistance on providing a reasonable accommodation to the applicant. Occupational Health and/or the Legal Department should also be contacted if necessary.

B. Guidelines for Conducting Interviews

Department leaders, supervisors and associates who are involved in interviewing and/or hiring job candidates should ask questions and make decisions on job-related criteria and focus on the candidate's qualifications to perform the job, either with or without a reasonable accommodation. In other words, neither the existence of a candidate's disability nor the need for a reasonable accommodation should be factors in considering his/her request for an accommodation to engage in the interview process, or in considering him/her for hire. If it has been determined that providing an accommodation presents an undue hardship to MedStar Health, then an accommodation may not be provided. Human Resources and the Legal Department, however, should be consulted in making this assessment.

II. Hiring Decisions

Hiring decisions should be based on job-related criteria. As explained above, the existence of an individual's physical or mental disability and/or need for a reasonable job accommodation should not be factors in hiring decisions.

Similarly, an individual's relationship with someone who is disabled (i.e., a disabled parent or child) should not be a factor in making hiring decisions. If there is a concern that an undue hardship is presented to MedStar Health in providing a new hire with a job accommodation, Human Resources and/or the Legal Department should be consulted.

III. Accommodating Associates with Disabilities

A. Responding to Associates' Job Accommodation Requests

Associates with disabilities may submit a request for job accommodations to their Department leaders, Human Resources or Occupational Health, who will coordinate, review, and respond to the request.

Department leaders who receive requests for disability-related accommodations should seek the assistance of Occupational Health, Human Resources, or the Legal Department in reviewing job accommodation requests made by associates with disabilities. In some cases, it may be necessary to involve other internal or external resources to explore the availability and feasibility of certain accommodations. Further, it is helpful that the associate and the treating physician be involved in accommodation communications, as they can provide useful information regarding what accommodations may be effective.

Information regarding an associate's medical condition(s) and any need for a reasonable job accommodation is considered confidential and should not be disclosed to anyone who does not have a legitimate, business-related need to know such information.

B. Examples of Reasonable Accommodations

It is important to remember that reasonable accommodations are those that enable the associate to perform the essential functions of his/her job or to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are enjoyed by

similarly situated employees who do not have disabilities; they are not intended to eliminate essential job functions. An associate who is provided reasonable job accommodations should be held to the same job performance standards as other associates without disabilities.

Reasonable job accommodations can take many forms. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing special equipment (i.e., Braille keyboard; specialized computer equipment)
- Modifying the workplace (i.e., moving furniture to allow access for wheelchair users)
- Modifying marginal job functions or the manner in which essential/core job functions are performed (i.e., altering the time/manner in which reports must be completed)
- Providing a modified work schedule (i.e., flex time so that the associate can attend medical treatment sessions)
- Providing an unpaid leave or accrued paid leave of absence (i.e., personal, medical or other leave so that the associate can obtain treatment or for recuperation)

NOTE: In certain situations, a reasonable job accommodation may also include extensions of leave if such an extension is reasonably expected to give the associate time to become able to perform the essential functions of his or her job. To determine if a leave extension is appropriate, management should consult with Human Resources and Occupational Health; the Legal Department may also be consulted.

- Making arrangements to allow for the disabled associate's participation in social and business activities equal to that of individuals without disabilities (i.e., selection of a site for a holiday party/business meeting that is wheelchair accessible)
- Reassignment to another available position (i.e., temporary or permanent transfer to an available position that does not require the creation of a new position).

IMPORTANT: Not every accommodation is reasonable for every given situation. Each case must be reviewed individually to ensure that the accommodation is effective and does not cause an undue hardship to MedStar Health. When no accommodation is available for the associate's current position, the associate should be provided a reasonable amount of time and assistance from Human Resources to be considered for other available, or soon to be available, job positions within MedStar Health that he/she is qualified to perform, with or without a reasonable accommodation.

REMEMBER: Reasonable accommodations must be considered and, in the appropriate cases, provided to associates with disabilities regardless of whether the associate's disability was caused by an on-the-job illness or injury, or whether it is also covered by the Family & Medical Leave Act.

IV. Non-Harassment and Non-Retaliation

In keeping with its commitment to provide a fair, just and welcoming workplace for applicants and associates with disabilities, MedStar Health does not condone discrimination, harassment or retaliation in any form against such individuals; this includes, but is not limited to, harassing or retaliating against anyone who requests a job accommodation during the hiring or employment stage with MedStar Health. This prohibition also applies to 1) good faith complaints made by applicants or associates that are related to their disability status and requests for job accommodations; and 2) an applicant's or associate's participation in an internal or investigation of such complaints or alleged violations of federal, state or local laws addressing disability discrimination.

Please contact Human Resources with any questions regarding this policy.

Provisions of this policy apply to all associates to the extent they do not conflict with relevant terms of an applicable contract.

Basic Life Support (BLS)/Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

MedStar house staff, with the exception of pediatric residents and neonatal fellows, are expected to maintain current Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) certification at all times during training. For pediatric residents, current Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification must be maintained. Neonatal fellows must maintain current Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).

Clinical Experience and Education (Duty Hours)

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education training programs at MedStar Health hospitals to monitor and schedule appropriate work/duty hours of the house officers ensuring that the educational goals of the program and learning objectives are not compromised by reliance on the House Staff to fulfill institutional service obligations.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Duty Hours – defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program, i.e., patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, and scheduled academic activities such as conferences. Duty hours do not include reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. Programs and sponsoring institutions must educate house staff and faculty members concerning the professional responsibilities of physicians to appear for duty appropriately rested and fit to provide the services required by their patients.

B. The program must be committed to and responsible for promoting patient safety and House Staff well-being in a supportive educational environment.

C. The program director must ensure that house staff are integrated and actively participate in interdisciplinary clinical quality improvement and patient safety programs.

D. The learning objectives of the program must:

1. be accomplished through an appropriate blend of supervised patient care responsibilities, clinical teaching, and didactic educational events; and,
2. not be compromised by excessive reliance on house staff to fulfill non-physician service obligations.

E. The program director and institution must ensure a culture of professionalism that supports patient safety and personal responsibility. House staff and faculty members must demonstrate an understanding and acceptance of their personal role in the following:

1. safety and welfare of patients entrusted to their care, including the ability to report unsafe conditions and adverse events;
2. provision of patient and family-centered care;

3. assurance of their fitness for work;
4. management of their time before, during and after clinical assignments;
5. recognition of impairment, including illness, fatigue, and substance use in themselves, their peers, and other members of the healthcare team;
6. commitment to lifelong learning;
7. the monitoring of their patient care performance improvement indicators; and,
8. honest and accurate reporting of clinical and educational work hours, patient outcomes and clinical experience data.

F. All house staff and faculty must demonstrate responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest. This includes recognition that under certain circumstances, the best interests of the patient may be served by transitioning that patient's care to another qualified and rested provider.

G. Programs must provide a professional, respectful, and civil environment that is free from mistreatment, abuse, or coercion of students, residents, faculty, and staff. Programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, should have a process for education of residents and faculty regarding unprofessional behavior and a confidential process for reporting, investigating, and addressing such concerns.

H. The program must:

1. educate faculty and house staff to recognize the signs of fatigue and sleep deprivation;
2. educate all faculty members and house staff in alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes; and,
3. encourage residents to use fatigue mitigation processes to manage the potential negative effects of fatigue on patient care and learning, such as naps or back-up call schedules.

I. Each program must have a process to ensure continuity of patient care, consistent with the program's policies and procedures, in the event that a house officer may be unable to perform his/her patient care responsibilities due to excessive fatigue.

J. The program, in sponsorship with the, sponsoring institution must ensure adequate sleep facilities and/or safe transportation options for house staff that may be too fatigued to safely return home.

K. House Staff Duty Hours:

1. Duty hours must be limited to 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.
 - a) A Review Committee may grant exceptions for up to 10% or a maximum of 88 hours to individual programs based on a sound educational rationale.
 - (i) In preparing a request for an exception, the program director must follow the duty hour exception policy from the *ACGME Manual on Policies and Procedures*.
 - (ii) Prior to submitting the request to the Review Committee, the program director must obtain approval of the institution's GMEC and DIO.
2. Moonlighting must not interfere with the ability of the resident to achieve the goals and objectives of the educational program. Time spent by house staff in internal and external moonlighting (as defined in the ACGME Glossary of Terms) must be counted towards the 80-hour maximum weekly hour limit.
3. PGY-1 house staff are not permitted to moonlight. (See the MedStar GME Policy on Moonlighting for further institutional guidelines.)
4. House staff must be scheduled for a minimum of one day free of clinical and educational work every week (when averaged over four weeks). At home call cannot be assigned on these free days.
5. Residents should have eight hours off between scheduled clinical work and education periods. There may be

circumstances when residents choose to stay to care for their patients or return to the hospital with fewer than eight hours free of clinical experience and education. This must occur within the context of the 80-hour and the one-day-off-in-seven requirements.

6. Clinical and educational work periods for residents must not exceed 24 hours of continuous scheduled clinical assignments.

- a) 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. Additional patient care responsibilities must not be assigned to a resident during this time.
- b) In rare circumstances, house staff, on their own initiative, may remain beyond their scheduled period of duty to continue to provide care to a single severely ill or unstable patient; humanistic attention to the needs of a patient or family; or to attend unique educational events. These additional hours of care or education will be counted toward the 80-hour weekly limit. Under those circumstances, the House Staff officer must:
 - (i) Appropriately hand over the care of all other patients to the team responsible for their continuing care; and,
 - (ii) Document the reasons for remaining to care for the patient in question and submit that documentation in every circumstance to the program director.
- c) The program director must review each submission of additional service, and track both individual House Staff and program-wide episodes of additional duty.

7. Residents must have 14 hours free of clinical work and education after 24 hours of in-house call.

8. Night float must occur within the context of the 80-hour and one-day-off-in-seven requirements. (The maximum number of consecutive weeks of night float, and maximum number of months of night float per year may be further specified by the Review Committee.)

9. Residents must be scheduled for in-house call no more frequently than every-third-night (when averaged over a four-week period).

10. Time spent on patient care activities by house staff on at-home call must count towards the 80-hour maximum weekly 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 clinical work and education, when averaged over four weeks.

- a) At-home call must not be so frequent or taxing as to preclude rest or reasonable personal time for each House Staff officer.
 - (i) 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 weekly maximum. will not initiate a new "off-duty period."

L. All house staff must log their duty hours in the residency management database, New Innovations.

M. Program Directors will be required to monitor their duty hour schedules and processes regularly. Duty hour compliance will be reviewed by the GMEC.

N. Any house officer working in excess of the hours mentioned above should report the situation to their Chief Resident, Program Director, Department Chair, GME, or the Vice President, Medical Affairs.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Conflict of Interest and Interactions with Industry

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify and establish appropriate guidelines for interactions between MedStar Health representatives and Industry. This policy documents the framework for all interactions with Industry and is aimed at assuring such relationships are ethical, do not impair professional judgment, and do not create conflicts of interest (or conflicts of commitment, as applicable) that could endanger patient safety, impair objectivity or data integrity, or damage the reputation of MedStar Health its affiliated entities or its representatives.

II. Policy

It is the policy of MedStar Health and its affiliated entities (collectively “MedStar”) that interactions with Industry (as defined below) should be conducted in a fashion that avoids or minimizes actual or perceived conflicts of interest (and/or conflicts of commitment, as defined below). In order to maximize the benefits of biomedical research, medical education, and to assure continued advancements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, MedStar must assure that any relationships with Industry are consistent with MedStar’s vision of being the *Trusted Leader in Caring for People and Advancing Health*. While many interactions with Industry are positive and can expand knowledge, drive innovation, improve quality of care and are important for promoting the educational, clinical, and research missions of MedStar; actual or perceived conflicts may compromise the ability of MedStar to provide patient care, conduct research, transact business, make purchasing decisions, and may otherwise pose a risk to the operations or reputation of MedStar and its associates. As a result, it is vital that we continue to make patient welfare our first priority and that all relationships with Industry meet the highest standards of professional ethics and that MedStar is appropriately transparent about any actual or perceived conflicts.

This policy is aimed at fostering and promoting appropriate and ethical relationships important to MedStar’s mission, vision, and values while eliminating relationships that are potentially harmful to MedStar or its patient’s interests. This policy affirms that the culture of MedStar requires the exercise of independent professional judgment in the activities of each of its representatives. To maintain the trust of its patients and the public, potential conflicts must be identified and avoided or when actual or perceived conflicts do arise, they must be addressed appropriately as described herein.

This conflict of interest policy is intended to supplement and be complementary to MedStar’s Code of Conduct, Business Ethics and Confidentiality Policy, and other policies involving conflicts of interest including MedStar Health Research Institute Policy on Conflicts of Interest (available at <http://apps01.medstar.net/MRI/MRI-Policies.nsf/>). However, it does not replace those policies or materials. To the extent this policy conflicts with or is more stringent than the Code of Conduct or other MedStar policies, this policy shall supersede such other policies and materials. All applicable state and federal laws continue to apply in accordance with their terms.

III. Scope

Unless any specific exceptions are specifically noted, this policy applies to MedStar Health, Inc, all its affiliated entities and subsidiaries, including their:¹

Officers and Directors: All their officers and members of their boards of directors acting in-their capacity on behalf of MedStar;

Full-time and Part-time Associates/Employees: All full-time and part-time associates/employees of a MedStar entity;

Employed Physicians and Independent Contractors: All employed physicians, and independent contractors who perform activities or services at a MedStar facility and could be perceived as representing MedStar;

¹ Note, please see Requirements and Guidelines for Implementing this Policy for individuals subject to reporting of potential financial conflicts of interest.

Faculty and Teaching staff: All faculty and teaching staff (whether employed or not) including independent contractors or voluntary faculty who have academic responsibilities for or perform teaching activities for MedStar;

Residents, Fellows and Students: All residents, fellows, and students, who receive training at a MedStar facility and could be perceived as representing MedStar;

Individuals with material decision-making responsibilities: Any other individuals who have material decision making responsibilities (including ordering or recommending the ordering of goods or services) on behalf of MedStar.

This policy specifically does not apply to private physicians with clinical privileges at MedStar facilities who are acting or performing services in their private practices or in their capacity as private physicians.

IV. Definitions

A. Conflict of Commitment (COC) – means any situation in which an employee undertakes external or private commitments which burden or interfere with the individual's obligations to MedStar.

B. Conflict of Interest (COI) – means any situation when an individual or their Immediate Family Member has Financial Interests or other personal interests that may compromise:

1. their professional judgment;
2. their performance of fiduciary or job responsibilities; or
3. the delivery of patient care or other services.

C. Financial Interest – means:

1. any compensation arrangement with any Industry Company (including any subsidiary or affiliated entity);
2. stock or ownership interests in an Industry Company (including any subsidiary or affiliated entity) amounting to greater than a 3% ownership interest;
3. company issued stock-options in an Industry Company (including any subsidiary or affiliated entity) regardless of amount or present value; or
4. any other compensation, reimbursement, or remuneration that improperly influences, or gives the appearance of improperly influencing business judgment, objectivity, relationships, or business outcomes.

D. Immediate Family Member – means the spouse or domestic partner, household members, and dependents of an individual with an actual or potential conflict of interest and includes step-children and children by adoption.

E. Industry Company – means any company that manufactures a pharmaceutical product, biological product, medical device, medical equipment, or medical supply whose use, provision or prescription is eligible for coverage by government reimbursement (i.e. Medicare, Medicaid). This includes any company who manufactures such a covered product, regardless of whether or not the manufacture of medically-related products is their principal business or simply a minor portion of their business activities.

F. Industry Representative – means any representative of any Industry Company (whether employed by or otherwise affiliated with) such entity.

G. Industry – The term “Industry” shall mean, independently or collectively, any combination of, Industry Company and Industry Representatives.

V. Responsibilities

Certain relationships and conduct with an Industry Company or Industry Representative are expressly prohibited by this policy while other relationships may provide benefits to MedStar's patients and may be appropriately managed, but require specific written approval. Finally certain conduct or relationships are permissible and require no advance approvals. ALL PERSONS SUBJECT TO THE REPORTING OBLIGATIONS OF THIS POLICY AS DESCRIBED BELOW IN SECTION 12 MUST REPORT ALL REPORTABLE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AS REQUIRED BY THIS POLICY. Any individual subject to this policy or the

Immediate Family Members of an individual subject to this policy must carefully consider whether their relationship with Industry requires any advance reporting and when in doubt, they should report the relationship or contact their Compliance Director for further guidance.

1. Personal Gifts. All cash, cash equivalent (i.e. gift cards), and non-cash gifts from Industry including but not limited to, perishable and non-perishable food items, floral arrangements, artwork, music, sporting event tickets, other entertainment, as well as any branded materials including pens, notepads, coffee mugs, clothing, or any other item with company logo or product information prominently displayed, is prohibited. However, unsolicited, non-branded, and general use gifts which have an educational value and are for the benefit of patient care or medical education, including books, anatomic models, illustrations, clinical diagrams, etc. are permitted provided they are of nominal value and they are not solely for a specific individual recipient's benefit. For example, a stethoscope would be considered a personal gift, while a book for a department library generally would not.

2. Meals, Invitations, and Entertainment. Industry sponsored meals, invitations, and entertainment (including, for example, both in-house and external/off-site meals, events, and entertainment) are considered personal gifts and are prohibited, unless otherwise specifically permitted by this policy. This includes industry-donated lunches and other meals for grand rounds and noon-time conferences.² However, Industry may donate funds centrally to the GME/CME Office to support a general fund for meals and/or educational activities, provided:

- i. The donation is unrestricted and the Industry Representatives may not determine the content or presenter for any specific programs; and
- ii. The Industry Company making a donation to a general meal fund may only be listed or identified among all commercial sponsors of on-site educational programs and may not be specifically identified as supporting any particular educational activity.

3. Attendance at Industry-Sponsored (and Third-Party Industry Sponsored) Conferences, Education Sales, or Promotional Events.³ Honoraria, compensation, reimbursement or other remuneration paid directly or indirectly by Industry for listening to a sales presentation or for time, effort, or attendance of an individual at Industry-Sponsored or Third-Party Sponsored conference, training, education, or promotional sessions is not permitted.⁴ However, reimbursement for, or payment of, the reasonable and necessary expenses associated with modest travel, meals, and lodging for bona-fide purchasing, training, education are permitted if they are primarily for:

- i. Learning how to properly and safely use medical devices, equipment and other technologies, or compliance with legal, regulatory or accreditation requirements; and
- ii. The payment is pursuant to the terms of a written agreement with the Industry Company, or is related to the review of capital equipment MedStar is considering purchasing or acquiring which cannot be transported to the MedStar facility.

4. Industry-Sponsored Scholarships and Other Education Support for Trainees. Industry may offer (and MedStar may solicit and accept), scholarships, grants, financial assistance or other donations for educational purposes including to support the position or training of medical students, residents, fellows and other healthcare professionals in training provided:

- i. The MedStar entity (not Industry or donor) must select the beneficiaries of any such support consistent

² Note: Industry-supplied or supported food and meals may be accepted in connection with programs accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and in compliance with ACCME guidelines; in the context of professional society meetings if provided to all attendees.

³ Honoraria received from educational institutions (universities, teaching hospitals, non-profit institutions, and professional societies) is permitted.

⁴ Except that support may be provided by Industry to conference sponsors to reduce overall conference or education event expenses.

with any regulatory [i.e., "Match"] rules and entity selection policies and support cannot be designated to hire named physicians, or specific individuals into funded slots, nor can they be used to fund "named" fellowships, except as approved by the VPMA (or as applicable, the entity President or their designee) in line with principles of named chairs/endowments;

- ii. All donations and support must be unrestricted and no limitations or quid pro quo requirements can be placed on the incumbents' future employment, practice, referrals, or location of practice. However donations CAN be designated for a specific clinical specialty, defined fund, department, or program;⁵ and
- iii. All such unrestricted gifts, donations, or professional support must be collected and managed through either the VPMA/Academic Affairs/GME/CME office's (as applicable) or the local entity Foundation, such funds must be used for GME/CME or medical student training purposes, and it is the entities responsibility to implement this requirement.

5. *Speaking, Consulting Arrangements, and Advisory Services with Industry.* Individuals subject to the reporting obligations of this policy may speak for Industry at Industry-Sponsored events or provide consulting or advisory services (including expert witness testimony) provided:

- i. The engagement is reported and approved by the entity VPMA (or as applicable, the entity President or their designee) in advance;
- ii. The engagement does not otherwise pose an unacceptable conflict of commitment for MedStar employees (as determined by the VPMA or as applicable, the entity President or their designee);
- iii. The arrangement is governed by a written agreement that specifically describes all services to be provided as well as the legitimate need and purpose for services/engagement which is not tied to the value or volume of any referral, purchase, order or recommendation for such referral, purchase, or order; the individual has sufficient expertise and experience to justify the consulting or speaking relationship, and the compensation or remuneration for the engagement is not in excess of fair market value (FMV);
- iv. Industry pays for only modest travel, lodging and meals in connection with the engagement;
- v. If the engagement is for speaking, the individual creates all slides (or other presentation materials), not an Industry Representative (unless specific attribution is made consistent with Section 10 below), and retains full control and approval authority over the content of the speech (other than approval over use of trade secret and proprietary information), the individual does not act as an Industry Company representative or suggest that MedStar endorses the Industry product or services, and the individual prominently discloses their Financial Interest to participants on materials presented.⁶

6. *Fiduciary, Management, or Other Financial Interests with Industry.* Individuals subject to reporting under this policy who have any Financial Interest in any Industry company including an ownership interest, fiduciary role, management role, or a compensation arrangement (including for speaking or consulting), or any stock options (even if they have a present value of zero dollars) must disclose the relationship consistent with reporting requirements of this policy, but not less than annually, and the financial relationships may be subject to further management up to and including dissolution of the relationship.⁷ Individuals subject to reporting under this policy may not have Financial Interests, fiduciary roles, or management responsibilities with any Industry Company, including but not limited to services on board of directors, as an officer, manager, medical director of and Industry Company if the individual has any ordering, recommending, or patient-care responsibilities in which that Industry Company's product or services may be used by a patient, unless:

⁵ Such limitations do not apply to other non-Industry commercial sponsors (i.e. American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, etc.)

⁶ Industry created slides, images, and materials illustrating biological or chemical structures may be utilized if they do not prominently display company names or logos. Industry created slides or materials may display copyright ownership and the name of the Industry company copyright owner.

⁷ Industry relationships will be evaluated individually and collectively with any other outside commitments when determining whether such activities can be approved and appropriately managed.

- i. The role is disclosed, reviewed, and approved in advance by the entity VPMA (or as applicable, the entity President or their designee);
- ii. An appropriate management oversight plan is implemented to assure professional objectivity in decision making, and in ordering or recommending goods or services; and
- iii. The relationship must be fully disclosed in writing to the patient if the individual has any patient-care responsibilities.

7. *Detailing, Tying, Switching, or Ordering.* Any Financial Interest, compensation, gifts or remuneration received in exchange for attending any meetings for the purpose of listening to sales information, or reviewing product training or education (so-called “detailing”), or in exchange for ordering or prescribing (so-called “tying”), or for changing an order or prescription (so-called “switching”) of a product is prohibited.

8. *Conflicts of Commitment.* Financial Interests, speaking or consulting arrangements, fiduciary and other roles with Industry may pose an inappropriate conflict of commitment for MedStar employees/associates. Unless reviewed and specifically approved in advance by the VPMA (or if applicable the entity President or their designee), any individual or collective external or private commitments with Industry that are undertaken *by employees* which may burden or interfere with the individual’s obligations to MedStar are prohibited.⁸ Any outside activities must not distract employees from fulfilling their professional obligations to MedStar including their obligations of professional loyalty, time and energy necessary for their patient care, teaching or research responsibilities.

9. *Site or Facility Access.* Site or facility access by Industry Representatives such as Industry sales and marketing representatives for the purpose of soliciting MedStar facilities and representatives is governed by MedStar’s Vendor Access Policy (available here:

<http://starport4medstar.net/Corp/administration/Pages/MedStarPolicies.aspx>).

10. *Publications/Ghost-Writing/Ghost-Authoring.* Publishing articles or materials under an individual’s own name that are written by, or in material part by, Industry Representatives is prohibited. Specifically, individuals subject to this policy shall not accept writing assistance, editorial assistance, manuscript preparation, revision, production, or submission services, slide preparation or revision; or other services from Industry (either directly or indirectly) unless such materials provided by Industry are specifically attributed to the author (i.e. each slide of a presentation must be appropriately attributed). “Guest” authorship or “ghostwriting” is not allowed. All persons who make a substantial contribution to a manuscript, presentation, or other writing meeting the ICMJE standards/criteria or other accepted scientific standards for authors ship should be listed as authors and their affiliations listed (academic, Industry, other).

11. *Free Drug/Product Samples.* Free drug and product samples may be accepted from Industry provided the drug samples are for patient use in accordance with the Prescription Drug Marketing Act, are limited and reasonable quantities for evaluation and demonstration purposes, any free drug sample may not billed to any payor, and the sample may not be accepted in exchange for tying or switching any products or as an inducement for any other purchasing, ordering, or prescribing. All personal and family use by the recipient is prohibited except in emergency situations and only for short courses of therapy. All samples must be recorded and reported to a central facility database (typically the facility pharmacy).

V. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted on an individual basis upon review and approval by the applicable compliance director, President (or their designee) and the General Counsel (or their designee).

⁸ MedStar employees must report any actual or potential conflicts of commitment to their entity VPMA or President (or their designee). Services to foundations, professional societies, non-profit organizations, or academic institutions which do not do business with or compete against MedStar do not need to be reported under this policy.

VI. What Constitutes Non-Compliance

Actions or conduct in violation of this Policy.

VII. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Violations of this Policy may require the responsible individual to undergo additional training and/or may subject the individual to disciplinary actions, including, but not limited to, suspension or termination of Hospital privileges, expulsion from educational programs, and/or suspension or termination of employment, as applicable.

VIII. Explanation and Details/Examples

N/A

IX. Requirements and Guidelines for Implementing the Policy

1. Duty to Disclose Financial Relationships with Industry. The obligation to disclose any relationships with Industry that constitute an actual or potential conflict of interest applies to the following individuals:

- a. Officers and Directors: All officers and members of boards of directors acting in their capacity on behalf of MedStar;
- b. Full-time and Part-time Associates/Employees: Only management level associates/employees.
- c. Employed Physicians and Independent Contractors: All employed physicians and independent contractors who perform activities or services at a MedStar facility and could be perceived as representing MedStar⁹;
- d. Faculty and Teaching staff: All faculty and teaching staff (whether employed or not) including independent contractors or voluntary faculty who have academic responsibilities for or perform teaching activities for MedStar;
- e. Residents, Fellows and Students: Only residents, fellows, who receive training at a MedStar facility and are subject to MedStar's Graduate Medical Education (GME) program requirements.

2. Procedures for Disclosure of Conflicts.

- a. Individuals subject to this policy may also be subject to the terms of their employment agreements or other MedStar policies (including the MRI Research Conflict of Interest policy) which may separately require disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, conflicts of commitment, or other outside activities and they are required to comply with those requirements separately.
- b. All individuals required to disclose conflicts under this policy must electronically submit a conflict of interest disclosure statement available consistent with Attachment A to this policy via the Internet at <https://medstar.coi-smart.com/>.
- c. At the time their disclosures are submitted, all individuals required to disclose conflicts must certify that they:
 - i. Have received a copy of this conflict of interest policy,
 - ii. Have read and understand this policy,
 - iii. Are in compliance with and agree to continue to comply with this policy,
 - iv. Agree to disclose all applicable potential or actual conflicts,
 - v. Agree to take such actions as determined to be appropriate by MedStar in order to manage or eliminate any potential conflicts of interest.

3. Review and Management of Conflicts.

- a. MedStar Entity Associates/Employees/Employed Physicians/Independent Contractors
 - i. Disclosures submitted by a MedStar entity associate/employee, employed physician, or independent contractor of a MedStar entity will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by that

⁹ Employees of MedStar who are leased to other institutions and do not perform services at a MedStar facility, nor hold themselves out as MedStar representatives would not be subject to the annual reporting obligation, but may still be subject to contractual reporting obligations as well as the requirements of this policy generally.

entity's Compliance Director in consultation with the entity's President (or their designee) in order to appropriately manage any potential or actual conflicts.

- ii. The Office of Corporate Business Integrity (OCBI) or MedStar Legal Department will be consulted as necessary on the identification or management of any conflicts,
- iii. All potential or actual conflicts involving physicians or independent contractors will be reviewed, evaluated, and monitored by the entity VPMA (or if applicable, the President or their designee).

b. Faculty/Teaching Staff/Residents/Fellows/Students

- i. Disclosures submitted by faculty/teaching staff/residents, fellows, or students will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by the entity GME Director (or as applicable, the President or their designee) in consultation with the corporate GME office.
- ii. The Office of Corporate Business Integrity (OCBI) or MedStar Legal Department will be consulted as necessary on the identification or management of any conflicts,
- iii. All potential or actual conflicts involving faculty, teaching staff, residents, fellows, or students will be reviewed and monitored by the entity VPMA (or as applicable, the President or their designee), and the corporate GME office.

c. Corporate Associates/Employees and all Senior Managers

- i. Disclosures submitted by corporate associates/employees, MedStar Senior Managers, or any MedStar entity that does not have a Compliance Director will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by OCBI in consultation with the MedStar Legal Department,
- ii. Any disclosures involving members of the MedStar Legal Department will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by the OCBI in consultation with the CEO. Any disclosures involving members of the OCBI will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by the General Counsel in consultation with the CEO.

d. Board Members

- i. Disclosures submitted by Members of a MedStar entity Board of Directors will be reviewed, evaluated, managed, documented and monitored by the General Counsel (or their designee) in order to identify any potential or actual conflicts of interest.
- ii. The General Counsel will determine the appropriate steps to be taken to manage any potential or actual conflicts of interest identified.
- iii. Actual conflicts will be reported to the chair of the Governance Committee of the MedStar Board.

e. COI Management Process. The MedStar entity Compliance Director, in consultation with the Office of Corporate Business Integrity (and MedStar Legal Department when necessary), will work with the VPMA (or as applicable entity President or their designee) to determine what if any action is required to manage an individual's potential or actual conflict of interest in a manner which eliminates the potential for harm to patients, impairment of professional judgment, impairment of objectivity or damage to MedStar reputation.

f. Documentation of COI Management. All such management actions will be appropriately documented and regularly monitored by the relevant Compliance Director (or Legal Department as applicable) in conjunction with the individual's superiors and entity VPMA (or as applicable entity President or their designee).

g. Compliance with Policy. Failure of an individual to adhere to any such management actions constitutes a violation of this policy and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including termination of employment, termination of agreement, or referral for any other actions that may be appropriate as determined by the General Counsel.

4. Frequency of Reporting. Disclosures under this policy must be made consistent with the requirements of this policy, but not less than annually, as well as upon any material change in the individual's conditions or relationships with Industry.

5. Publication of Conflicts.

- a. Identified conflicts will be posted in an appropriate manner on MedStar's Internet page in sufficient detail to enable consumers, employees and other interested parties to adequately understand the nature of the conflict.
- b. Financial Interests resulting in a conflict will only be reported publicly in a manner that indicates the individual has a reportable Financial Interest in an Industry Company, but the details of the Financial Interests will not be reported, unless otherwise required by law.

X. Related Policies

MedStar Health Business Ethics and Confidentiality Policy

MedStar Health Vendor Access Policy

MedStar Health Code of Conduct

MedStar Research Institute Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment Policy

XI. Procedures Related To Policy: N/A

XII. Legal Reporting Requirements: N/A

XIII. Reference to Laws or Regulations of Outside Bodies

AMA Code of Medical Ethics, Opinion 8.061 - "Gifts to Physicians from Industry"

HHS OIG Compliance Program Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) Code of Interactions with Healthcare Professionals

Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) GPO Ethics Guidance

AdvaMed (Device Manufacturers Code of Ethics)

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice (2009).

XIV. Right To Change or Terminate Policy

Any material changes to this Policy require review and approval by the EVP for Medical Affairs and the MedStar Legal Department. The Corporation's policies are the purview of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the CEO's management team. The CEO has the final sign-off authority on all corporate policies.

Attachment A: Questions for Conflict of Interest with Industry Disclosures

Questions for all individuals required to file a disclosure:

Financial Interest of You and Your Family Members

1. To your knowledge, have you or an immediate family member had any financial interests, fiduciary roles or management responsibilities in a biomedical, pharmaceutical, medical device or medical equipment company in the last 12 months, including?
- stock or ownership interests greater than 3%
 - compensation or other payment arrangements of any amount
 - any company-issued stock-options regardless of amount or present value
 - any role as an officer or director

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe each interest, including who has/had the interest (you or the name of your immediate family member), the name the company, the description of the interest or responsibility (including value if known). *(text box)*

Detailing, Tying, Switching or Ordering

2. To your knowledge, have you or an immediate family member received any compensation, gifts or other payment of any amount from a biomedical, pharmaceutical, medical device or medical equipment company in exchange for Detailing, Tying, Switching, or Ordering any products, goods or services over the last 12 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please describe each incident in detail, including who received the compensation or anything of value (you or the name of your immediate family member), the name of the company, the compensation or payment received, and the nature of the activity. *(text box)*

Speaking and Consulting Services

3. To your knowledge, have you or an immediate family member received OR requested approval of any financial interest, compensation, gifts or other payment of any amount from a biomedical, pharmaceutical, medical device or medical equipment company in exchange for consulting services, or speaking engagements on behalf of such a company over the last 12 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please describe each incident in detail, including who received the compensation, gifts or payment (you or the name your **immediate family member**), the name of the company, the compensation, gifts or payment received, and the nature of the activity. *(text box)*

Meetings, Conferences and Other Events

4. To your knowledge, have you or an **immediate family member** received any financial interest, compensation, gifts or other payment of any amount from a biomedical, pharmaceutical, medical device or medical equipment company in exchange for attending any **educational** or **professional meetings, conferences** or **events** which were sponsored (or partially sponsored) by such a company over the last 12 months?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe each incident in detail including who attended the event(s) (you or the name of your **immediate family member**), the nature of the event(s), the name of the company or companies that sponsored it and the compensation or gifts received. (*text box*)

Other Potential Conflicts

5. Do you or an **immediate family member** have any other relationships with, or have you received anything else of value from, a biomedical, pharmaceutical, medical device or medical equipment company over the last 12 months that could reasonably appear to influence your medical or professional objectivity?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe in detail. (*text box*)

Certification for All Disclosures

By entering my username and password below, I certify that:

- To the best of my knowledge the information I have provided above is complete and accurate.
- Should my situation change at any point such that the information provided above no longer constitutes complete and accurate answers to all questions I will promptly update this disclosure.
- Neither I, nor any Immediate Family Member, has disclosed or used, or will disclose or use any confidential, special or inside information obtained through my association with any MedStar Health entity for the personal profit or advantage of myself or any Immediate Family Member.
- Neither I, nor any Immediate Family Member, has accepted gifts, gratuities, or entertainment that are in excess of limits stated in the MedStar Code of Conduct or the MedStar Health, Inc. Business Ethics and Confidentiality Policy or this policy that might influence my judgment or actions concerning the business of any MedStar Health entity, except as listed on a separate disclosure sheet. (This does not include the acceptance of items of nominal or minor value that are clearly tokens of respect or friendship, are not related to any particular transaction or activity, and are permitted under the MedStar Code of Conduct.)
- I understand that I have an obligation to take remedial action to correct, or cause others to correct, any violation of the MedStar Code of Conduct, the Business Ethics and Confidentiality Policy, or this policy of which I become aware, and to report any material violation of the Code or Policy to the Office of Corporate Business Integrity (directly or by calling the Ethics Hotline at 1-877-811-3411), or to the MedStar Legal Department.
- I have read and understand MedStar's Conflict of Interest Policy, Code of Conduct and the Business Ethics and Confidentiality Policy and agree to comply with them.

Responsibilities in Local Extreme Emergent Situations (Disaster Policy)

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health in the event of disaster or any interruption in patient care.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all GME training programs within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health graduate medical education training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program for purposes of clinical education.

Sponsoring Institution – the MedStar hospital that sponsors the GME training program.

Extreme emergent situation – a local event (such as a hospital-declared disaster for an epidemic) that affects House Staff education or the work environment but does not rise to the level of an ACGME-declared disaster as defined in the ACGME Policies and Procedures.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

MedStar Health is committed to its GME programs and house staff. In order to protect and assist house staff in the event of disaster or any interruption in training, the following policy is provided and supported by the institution.

1. The system-wide MedStar Disaster Oversight Committee will coordinate the provision of House Staff deployment as needed for patient care in the event of a regional disaster.
2. The Sponsoring Institution will continue patient care and GME training activities during a disaster, if at all possible.
3. The House Staff are first and foremost physicians, but may only perform duties based upon their degree of competence, their specialty training and the context of the specific situation. Many House Staff officers at an advanced level of training may even be fully licensed in their state, and therefore, they may be able to provide patient care independent of supervision.
4. In the event of a disaster, house staff must not be expected to perform beyond the limits of their competence as judged by program directors and other supervisors or outside the scope of their individual licensure.
5. The local GME Committee will be responsible for monitoring duty hours for affected house staff.
6. If a break in service does occur due to any natural disaster or interruption in patient care, the DIO and VPMA will review the situation to decide the best course of action.
7. In the event of an extreme emergent situation, the DIO will contact the Executive Director of the Institutional Review Committee (ED-IRC) regarding the status of the educational environment for its ACGME-accredited programs.
8. Once the DIO has received confirmation from the ED-IRC, program directors may contact their respective Executive Directors if necessary to discuss specialty-specific concerns regarding interruptions to House Staff education or effect on educational environment.
9. Program directors are expected to communicate and update the DIO and VPMA on the status and results of conversations with their Executive Directors.

10. In the event of an interruption in training, written notice will be given to all house staff.
11. If it is determined that training must be discontinued for a period of time, the Sponsoring Institution will support a House Staff officer transfer to another ACGME-accredited program to continue, and if necessary, complete training.
12. Salary and benefits will be continued for the house staff for the duration of their contract.
13. The Sponsoring Institution will provide letters of support for their house staff who require transfer to another institution. If available, evaluations and other employment documentation will be supplied upon request of the House Staff officer and/or receiving institution.
14. The Sponsoring Institution will work with the receiving institution to transfer associated cap positions, if applicable.
15. The DIO will notify the ER-IRC when the extreme emergent situation has been resolved.
16. In the event of an on-going disaster, the System GMEC will monitor the situation.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Dismissal from a Residency Program and Termination of Employment

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all post-graduate training programs within the MedStar Health System for use in dismissal of house staff from a residency program, and the corresponding the termination of house staff employment prior to the date of contract expiration.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house staff in the MedStar Health System. All information contained in this policy shall be read in conjunction with the house staff agreement.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer –refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health post-graduate training program.

Dismissal – refers to the termination of participation in a residency or fellowship training program at the election of the program prior to the completion of the academic course of study.

Termination – the act of severing employment prior to the date of expiration of the house officer's contract or the non-renewal of a house officer's contract prior to the completion of an academic course of study at the election of either party to the contract.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. Withdrawal or dismissal from a house officer's academic program prior to the completion of an academic course of study may be done at either the discretion of the house officer or the hospital, or at the mutual agreement of the house officer and the hospital.

B. Resignation

1. If the house officer desires to withdraw from his or her program, the house office must submit a letter of resignation to the Program Director, at least 30 days in advance, stating the reason for the action. The 30 days' notice may be waived, in whole or in part, at the discretion of the Program Director.

2. An exit interview may be requested by the Program Director and/or the Director of Medical Education/VPMA (or designee).

C. Dismissal

1. The Hospital may elect to dismiss a house officer from enrollment in a program prior to the established completion date due to:
 - a) Academic Failure to Progress
 - b) Misconduct
 - c) Abandonment of position/employment
 - d) Any other reason set forth in the house staff agreement.
2. The decision to dismiss should be made consistent with other applicable GME policies, such as the “Academic Improvement Policy” or the “House Officer Misconduct” Policy.
3. When a house officer is informed of dismissal, he/she has the right to request due process as delineated in the “Due Process” policy.

D. Non Renewal of Contract:

1. A program director may elect not to renew a house officer’s contract (i.e., deny promotion to the next level of education) consistent with the Academic Improvement Policy or House Staff Misconduct Policy.
2. Non-renewal of contract is an action that allows the resident to request due process (See policy for “Academic Improvement” and “House Staff Misconduct”).
3. The Office of Graduate Medical Education should be notified immediately upon the Program Director’s decision to not renew an employment contract.
4. Consistent with the Promotion Policy, house officers should be notified each academic year whether the house officer is on-track to be promoted to the next educational level of training. If the program cannot confirm that a house officer is on track for promotion to the next academic level, then the house officer should be notified, to the extent possible, that the decision is being held until a specific future date, and the reason for holding on the decision (i.e., academic concerns, pending evaluations, scores, etc...).
5. Even if a house officer is notified of the program’s intent to promote, if circumstances warrant, the program may reverse its decision and elect not to promote or to dismiss a house officer in accordance with other provisions of this policy.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Dress Code and Personal Appearance

I. Policy Statement

MedStar Health believes in providing high quality and safe care, treatment and services to patients. Therefore, MedStar Health associates are required to dress in a manner that is safe and is based on MedStar Health dress code and personal appearance guidelines while on duty; while on property owned or leased by MedStar Health; or when representing MedStar Health in public.

II. Philosophy Statement

MedStar Health expects all associates to contribute to a professional and collegial environment by exemplifying the SPIRIT (Service, Patient First, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, and Teamwork) values with our patients, visitors, customers and colleagues.

III. Procedure

A. Dress Code

1. Religious Dress

MedStar Health is committed to promoting diversity and equality of religious preference or requirements of customary dress. Leaders will consider associates' religious or cultural dress requirements and the needs of the patients that we serve. A review of our infection prevention and safety standards will be conducted as appropriate.

2. Identification Badges

ID badges must be worn by associates at all times while on premises and should be displayed according to entity standards. No pins or other stick-on items may be attached to the badge. Associates who damage or lose their ID badges are responsible to pay for replacement badges.

3. General Requirements (Applicable to Patient Care and Non-Patient Care Areas)

It is essential that each associate present a neat, professional, well-groomed appearance while on duty, on the entity premises, and while representing the entity off premises. Associates should adhere to the following dress and personal appearance requirements:

- Associate's appearance should be clean, neat and professional. Clothing should be unexaggerated in style, clean, properly fitting and not wrinkled. Clothing should not appear too tight, too baggy, too short in length, revealing, faded, or in need of repair. Certain items are not appropriate, including, but are not limited to, denim materials, T-shirts, and shorts.
- Lab coats and scrubs may only be worn by authorized clinical personnel, unless required by regulatory agencies or department policy.
- Associates who are required to wear uniforms are expected to follow their department-specific dress code standards.
- Hats and other head coverings are not permitted, unless required for religious purposes or part of the uniform.
- Shoes need to be appropriate in style, depending on the nature of the position. Flip flops and non-business style open toe shoes are not appropriate.
- Extreme or eccentric hairstyles (i.e. spiked, shaved message, striped, etc.) or extreme hair color (i.e., blue, purple, green, etc.) are not permitted.
- Fingernails should be kept clean and be in compliance with the applicable MedStar Health practice. Neon nail polish and nail jewels are not acceptable. In some areas (such as food services), nail polish may be prohibited.
- Due to close contact with patients, visitors and coworkers, the use of strong, heavy scents and fragrances is not permitted.
- Generally, visible tattoos and facial piercings are prohibited.
- Moderate jewelry is permitted and must be appropriate to the nature of the associate's job. In some areas, jewelry may not be permitted or may be limited in size/amount for safety and/or infection control reasons.
- Associates are expected to follow any additional guidelines related to their job.

4. Additional Requirements Applicable to Patient Care Areas

- Fragrances may not be worn.
- Long hair should be worn up, secured in back, or appropriately covered in accordance with established departmental standards/protocols.
- Nails must be trimmed no longer than ¼ inch in patient care areas (unless more stringent standards have been established based on nature of duties.) In accordance with CDC guidelines, no artificial fingernails or extenders may be worn by associates providing patient care.
- If patient care duties, or an unexpected event, (such as severe infectious disease outbreak), requires an associate to wear an N95 respirator, then the associate must be completely free of makeup (and any other facial product) that visibly stains or soils the N95 respirator and be clean shaven within the sealing area of the N95 respirator to maintain appropriate fit and protection.

IV. Definitions

Patient Care Areas: Any area where associates have direct patient contact or patient interactions.

Non-Patient Care Areas: Any area where associates do not have any direct patient contact or interactions and/or areas where direct patient contact or interactions are minimal, such as, limited to contact in the halls, cafeteria, etc.

V. Responsibility

A. Associates

Every associate is expected to follow this policy as established by MedStar Health and the departments in which they work. Failure to follow the Dress Code and Personal Appearance policy can result in corrective action up to and including termination.

B. Leaders

1. Ensure that dress code and personal appearance policies are contained in department manuals or are accessible to associates, and that each new associate is informed of such policies during departmental orientation.
2. Ensure associates' compliance with this policy in addition to the applicable dress code and personal appearance policy and address violations of this policy through coaching and/or corrective action.
3. Interpret and enforce this policy in a consistent manner.
4. Ensure that the associate's appearance is consistent with the mission and environment of the department and meets the following objectives:
 - Demonstrates a public image commensurate with the quality of patient care and services.
 - Protects the health and safety of patients, visitors and associates.
 - Meets infection prevention standards for a safe environment.

VI. Exceptions

Exceptions may be granted to portions of this policy (either on a case-by-case basis or through a department dress code and personal appearance policy) for departments/locations with no patient, visitor, or vendor face-to-face contact and/or based on the operational function of the department. All exceptions require the approval of the relevant senior Human Resources leader.

Examples of an exception: Associates working in a non- air conditioned warehouse, may be permitted to wear shorts during the summer months or associates working in a satellite call center or business office with no face-to-face contact with patients, visitors, or vendors are permitted to wear business casual attire or participate in a sponsored jeans day.

Please contact your leader or Human Resources with any questions regarding this policy.

Provisions of this policy apply to all associates to the extent they do not conflict with relevant terms of an applicable contract.

Due Process Policy

MedStar Health
Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health to use in reviewing all actions resulting in dismissal or otherwise altering the intended career path of the house officer.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health. Due Process, as described within, applies to actions that are taken as a result of academic deficiencies or misconduct (see related Academic Improvement Policy and House Officer Misconduct policy).

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Dismissal – The act of terminating a House Staff officer's participation in a training program prior to the successful completion of the course of training, whether by early termination of a contract or by non-renewal of a contract.

IV. Academic Matters

The Hospital's Academic Improvement Policy affords due process to house officers who are dismissed from a residency program or whose intended career development is altered by an academic decision of a program. See Academic Improvement Policy for delineation of the specific processes available to a house officer to challenge an academic decision made by his/her Department.

V. Misconduct Matters

The Hospital's House Officer Misconduct Policy affords due process to house officers who are disciplined or dismissed from a residency program in a manner that alters their intended career development. See House Officer Misconduct Policy for delineation of the specific processes available to a house officer to challenge discharge or discipline decisions based on alleged misconduct by a house officer.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Evaluation Policy

MedStar Health
Graduate Medical Education Policy

Purpose:

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education training programs within MedStar Health to use in the assessment of house officer and faculty performance, and house officer and faculty evaluation of the hospital and the program. This evaluation process is utilized to improve the educational processes and programs.

Scope:

This policy will apply to all graduate medical education training programs in the MedStar Health System. All

information contained in this policy shall be used as minimum criteria for evaluation. More detailed evaluation criteria shall be delineated by the clinical departments in their respective departmental evaluation policy.

Definitions:

House Staff or House Officer: refers to all interns, residents and fellows participating in a MedStar Hospital graduate medical education training program.

Graduate Medical Education Program: refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Objective Feedback: Assessments and evaluations that are typically structured and scored or rated based on pre-determined criteria that are uniformly applied. Examples include but are not limited to tests, shelf exams, USMLE scores, OSCEs, etc.

Subjective Feedback: Assessments and evaluations that are made by faculty and other evaluators, structured or unstructured, based on their professional judgments and opinions. Examples include but are not limited to rotational evaluations, verbal feedback, 360 evaluations, and “Just in Time” feedback at the point of clinical care.

Final Summative Assessment: A document that is prepared by the Program Director or Chairman for every house officer, upon departure of the program. The final summative assessment is a fair and balanced review of the house officer’s overall performance in the residency program, including strengths and weaknesses, and is based on the 6 core competencies and specialty specific requirements.

Recommendation Letter: A letter prepared for the purpose of promoting a house officer for a position in which they are seeking to gain.

Milestones: Competency-based developmental outcomes (e.g., knowledge, skills, attitudes, and performance) that can be demonstrated progressively by residents and fellows from the beginning of their education through graduation to the unsupervised practice of their specialties.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements:

A. Faculty have the responsibility to provide ongoing assessment and feedback to house officers. This feedback may be verbal or written.

B. All documentation of house officer performance by the faculty, both formal and informal, should be maintained as permanent documentation by the department.

C. Rotational evaluations will be one of the tools utilized in determining promotion.

D. The Program Director will be responsible for communicating the departmental policy for evaluation to house staff and faculty.

E. Formative Evaluation:

1. The faculty must evaluate resident performance in a timely manner during each rotation or similar educational assignment and document this evaluation at completion of the assignment.

2. The program director should:

a) Provide objective and subjective assessments of performance based on the 6 core competencies of patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism and systems-based practice based on the specialty-specific Milestones;

b) Use multiple evaluation methods and techniques, such as

(i) Verbal feedback

(ii) Rotational evaluations

(iii) 360 evaluations

(iv) Objective assessments

- (v) Reflective exercises and/or portfolios
 - (vi) Simulation
 - (vii) Unsolicited feedback
 - (viii) Discussion and recommendations of the Clinical Competency Committee
- c). Methods of evaluation should be reviewed in their entirety. One evaluation does not have more weight than another; for example, rotational evaluations are equally as important as other methods of evaluation including verbal feedback;
 - d) Use multiple evaluators (e.g., faculty, peers, patients, self and other professional staff);
 - e) Document progressive resident performance improvement appropriate to educational level; and,
 - f) Provide each resident with documented semi-annual evaluation of performance with feedback.
3. The evaluations of resident performance must be accessible for review by the resident, in accordance with institutional policy.

F. Final Summative Assessment:

1. The specialty-specific Milestones must be used as one of the tools to ensure house officers are able to practice core professional activities without supervision upon completion of the program.
2. The program director must prepare, sign and provide a Final Summative Assessment for each house officer upon departure from the program.
3. The final summative evaluation should:
 - a) Become part of the house officer's permanent record that is maintained by the sponsoring institution and must be accessible for review by the house officer;
 - b) Be an honest, fair and balanced assessment of the house officer's overall performance in the program including both strengths and weaknesses;
 - c) Be based on the six core competencies;
 - d) Include documentation of procedures if appropriate;
 - e) Verify that the house officer has demonstrated sufficient competence to enter practice without direct supervision.
4. The final summative assessment is not negotiable and is not subject for review or contest.

G. Letters of Recommendation

1. House officers may request a letter of recommendation to assist them with obtaining another position, job, employment, scholarship, or other purpose.
2. A Letter of Recommendation is separate from the Final Summative Assessment, and is not intended to be a fair and balanced assessment of overall performance in the program; a recommendation letter reflect the personal opinions of the person writing the letter.
3. Each program director should have a policy on whether or not they will prepare letters of recommendation in addition to the final summative assessment.
4. Faculty may choose to prepare letters of recommendation for house staff, upon request, so long as the following criteria are adhered to:
 - a) The faculty member must properly identify themselves, their role in the program, and the extent of their interaction with the house officer.
 - b) The faculty member must not purport to represent the program or the overall assessment of the trainee by the program.

- c) The faculty member must only comment on the house officer's performance for which they have personal knowledge of.
- d) Letters should be written on personal letterhead, not that of the program or institution or misleading as representing official documentation from the program leadership.
- e) Faculty must refrain from writing letters if directed as such by the Chairman in cases of academic failure to progress.

H. **Faculty Evaluation:**

1. The program must evaluate faculty performance as it relates to the education program at least annually.
2. These evaluations should include a review of the faculty's clinical teaching abilities, commitment to the educational program, clinical knowledge, professionalism and scholarly activities.
3. The faculty evaluation must include at least annual written confidential evaluations by the residents.

I. **Program Evaluation and Improvement:**

1. The program must document formal, systematic evaluation of the curriculum at least annually to track each of the following areas:
 - a) Resident performance;
 - b) Faculty development;
 - c) Graduate performance, including performance of program graduates on the certification examination; and,
 - d) Program quality, specifically that residents and faculty must have the opportunity to confidentially evaluate the program in writing at least annually and that the program must use the results of house staff evaluations of the program together with other program evaluation results for program improvement.
2. If deficiencies are found, the program should prepare a written action plan to document initiatives to improve performance in the areas as cited. The action plan should be reviewed and approved by the teaching faculty and documented in meeting minutes.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Examination Policy

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all Graduate Medical Education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health to use in the appointment and promotion of House Staff.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all eligible House Staff who participate in GME training programs within the MedStar Health system. All information contained in this policy shall be used as minimum criteria.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all eligible interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

USMLE – refers to the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

COMLEX – refers to the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Exam. APMLE – refers to the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination NBDE – refers to the National Board Dental Exam

iNBDE – refers to the Integrated National Board Dental Exam

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements:

1. All applicants for positions in a graduate medical education training program within MedStar Health are expected to have taken and passed prior to their first day of employment in the training program all components of the applicable examinations listed below:
 - USMLE Steps 1 and 2CK
 - COMLEX Levels 1 and 2CE
 - APMLE Parts 1 and 2
 - iNBDE or NBDE Parts 1 and 2
2. Failure of an applicant to take the applicable examinations listed above by their contracted start date will make null and void any letters of offer and/or employment contracts issued by MedStar Health.
3. In the event that a letter of offer or employment contract is withdrawn for a matched applicant, programs must adhere to NRMP policies and procedures.
4. Applicants who have not passed the applicable examinations will not be accepted in transfer from other graduate medical education programs.
5. By six months into their PGY-2 year, all House Officers enrolled in a residency training program within MedStar Health should take and pass the applicable examinations: USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; APMLE Part 3.
 By the end of their PGY-2 year, all House Officers must take and pass the applicable examination: USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; APMLE Part 3
 Evidence of successful completion must be submitted to both the program and GME offices.
6. If the House Officer has not passed USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; or AMPLE Part 3 by the six-month point of the PGY-2 year, a Letter of Deficiency may be issued at the discretion of the Program Director pursuant to the Academic Improvement Policy.
7. If USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; or AMPLE Part 3 has not been passed by the end of the House Officer's PGY-2 year of training, the House Officer will not be promoted to the PGY-3 level. If a passing score on USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; or AMPLE Part 3 has not been achieved before the first day of the PGY-3 year, House Officers may be dismissed from the residency program or, at the discretion of the program director, may alternatively be placed on a paid leave of absence until a passing score is received and submitted, up to 90 days.
8. Applicants to a fellowship program must take and pass USMLE Step 3; COMLEX Level 3; or AMPLE Part 3 prior to their first day of employment in the training program or the contract will be null and void.

Policy Approved by:

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Fatigue Mitigation Transportation Reimbursement for Trainees

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health to use for reimbursement requests from fatigued trainees using transportation to get home safely.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all House Staff who participate in GME training programs within the MedStar Health system.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Transportation Service – service such as Uber, Lyft, taxi. It must be basic service (Uber Plus, Lyft Black, etc do not qualify).

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. Trainees may use a transportation service to get home if they feel they are too fatigued to get home safely.

B. The house staff member must contact the program director, or his/her approved designee, within 24 hours of use to request and receive approval for the use of alternative transportation.

C. Written approval for the use of alternative transportation home must be forwarded to GME along with the receipt for reimbursement within thirty (30) days from the date of usage (ex. Email from program director or designee).

D. The end location of the service must be the house officer's a verifiable home address.

E. The house officer is permitted to use the alternative transportation back to the hospital/training site the next day if his/her car is left there.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Grievance Resolution

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health to use in the formal resolution of House Staff officers' complaints and grievances.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all House Staff who participate in GME training programs within the MedStar Health system. This policy does not apply to actions arising out of the Academic Improvement Policy or the House Officer Misconduct Policy.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Grievance – a cause of distress (such as an unsatisfactory working condition) felt to afford reason for complaint or resistance.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. Grievances must be dealt with in a confidential manner, and without fear of retaliation. Incidents should be reported directly to the House Staff officer in charge at the time of the incident.

B. If the House Staff officer in charge is unable to rectify the situation, the attending on the team should be consulted.

C. For any incident that is not resolved as stated above or that is not associated with a particular incident on a patient unit, House Staff should proceed directly to their Chief House Staff officer.

D. If the House Staff officer does not feel as though the Chief House Staff officer has effectively resolved the issue, he/she should take the problem to the Program Director for resolution.

E. If satisfactory resolution is still not apparent after the Program Director has become involved, then the House Staff officer should provide a written grievance report directly to the Director of Medical Education outlining the issue. This report should describe the involvement of the Chief House Staff officer and the Program Director.

F. The Director of Medical Education will review the written grievance report to ensure that all of the appropriate steps, as indicated above, were followed. A grievance committee will then be formed consisting of, at least, the following individuals:

1. The Program Director for the grievant
2. Director of Medical Education (or designee)
3. A House Staff officer not involved with the situation
4. The Associate DIO of the entity
5. Any other department representative deemed necessary by management to perform a reasonable investigation

G. Upon hearing the grievance, the committee will investigate any and all issues associated with the complaint and will provide a final written decision to the House Staff officer.

H. All proceedings and decisions of the grievance committee shall be reported to the Graduate Medical Education Committee and the applicable program director, in a confidential manner.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Health and Disability Insurance

I. Purpose

To establish a policy outlining health and disability insurance coverage for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

IV. Health and Disability Insurance Coverage

A. MedStar Health provides health insurance benefits for House Staff and their eligible dependents as of the first day of employment. House Staff may choose from the following high-quality health insurance plans:

1. CareFirst PPO
2. MedStar Select
3. Kaiser Permanente HMO Plan

B. MedStar Health provides the following disability insurance benefits for House Staff as of the first day of employment:

1. Short-Term Disability (STD): STD coverage is designed to ensure continuing income for those house staff who are unable to work due to a non-work related injury or illness. Eligible employees may participate in the STD plan subject to all terms and conditions of the agreement between MedStar Health and the insurance carrier. STD is available for full-time house staff. Coverage begins on the first day for an accident and after a 7 day waiting period for an illness and can continue for up to 25 weeks or until clearance to return to work is granted, whichever occurs first. The STD program replaces 60% of salary. Disabilities arising from pregnancy or pregnancy-related illness are treated the same as any other illness that prevents and employee from work.
2. Long-Term Disability (LTD): MedStar Health provides a LTD benefit plan to help house staff cope with an illness or injury that results in a long-term absence from employment. LTD benefits are designed to ensure a continuous income for employees who are disabled and unable to work. LTD benefits begin after a 180 day elimination period of disability is satisfied. LTD plans provide a bridge between short-term disability benefits and retirement income. Benefits will cease at the end of the maximum benefit period (age 65), the date your disability ends, or the date that medical documentation expires. House Staff receive 70% of income up to a maximum \$3,000 monthly benefit. MedStar Health also offers an expanded LTD plan for minimal cost during the training period. This insurance coverage is portable; that is, house staff may continue the coverage in effect by assuming payment of the premium upon completion of the training program (additional information available upon request).

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Policy on House Staff as Primary Investigator

Graduate Medical Education

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health related to the role of house officers as primary investigator on a research study or protocol.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all House Staff who participate in GME training programs within the MedStar Health system. The policy applies to all research involving human subjects conducted at MedStar Health facilities. It also applies to research involving human subjects conducted outside of MedStar Health facilities in which MedStar Health is engaged in research. This policy applies regardless of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviewing the study.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health graduate medical education training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Research Study or Protocol – any research study or protocol, regardless of IRB status, taking place within MedStar Health entities, or by trainees currently enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. The Primary Investigator (PI) is responsible for all aspects of the study – including design, IRB submission, following protocol, and delegating work. The ultimate responsibility of the PI is to oversee the body of work, and he or she is responsible if any patient or regulatory concerns arise.

B. Individuals who serve as a Principal Investigator of research involving human subjects must be qualified by education, training and experience to assume responsibility of the conduct of the research. Considering the longitudinal responsibilities for research studies, trainees may not serve in the role as primary investigator on MedStar Health research studies. This designation must be reserved for faculty mentors/supervisors.

V. Right to Change or Retire Policy

Modifications or retirement of this policy may be made at the direction of the Institutional Official for research at MedStar Health or the Vice President, Academic Affairs, as necessary, to remain in compliance with MedStar Health policies.

VI. Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all trainees participating in research within MedStar to be familiar with this policy. It is the responsibility of the MedStar GME program to inform trainees of this policy.

VII. Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case by case basis jointly by the Institutional Official for research at MedStar Health and the Vice President of Academic Affairs or their designees.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs/MedStar Health Research Institute

Leave of Absence Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy that outlines medical, parental and caregiver leave for house staff and provides accurate information regarding the impact of an extended leave of absence upon the criteria for satisfactory completion of the program and upon a house officer's eligibility to participate in examinations by the relevant certifying board(s).

II. Scope

This policy applies to all house staff enrolled in GME training programs within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer: Refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health GME training program.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) Training Program: Refers to a residency or fellowship program.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

It is the policy of MedStar Health to provide a minimum of six (6) weeks of fully paid leave for eligible house staff who are on an authorized Leave of Absence. Paid leave may be extended beyond six (6) weeks for certain

qualifying events under MedStar's policies on Short Term Disability and Family/Medical Leave. In addition, paid leave may be taken in increments shorter than six (6) weeks.

House Staff may qualify for paid leave for the following events:

- Medical Leave for a house officer's own illness, injury, or medical condition or to obtain preventive medical care. This includes medical leave for childbirth. Length of medical leave is determined based on medical documentation.
- Parental Leave: due to the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child.
- Caregiver Leave: to take care of a family member with a serious health condition.

House staff are also entitled to one (1) additional week of fully paid leave, reserved for use outside of medical, parental or caregiver leave. This additional paid leave should be used within the same appointment year of the original leave.

During any approved medical, parental, or caregiver leave of absence, the house officer is ensured the continuation of health and disability insurance benefits for themselves and their eligible dependents.

Leave benefits are available on the first day of enrollment in the GME training program.

V. Process

1. The house officer should notify the program director at least three (3) months prior to the expected leave date if known.
2. After coordination with the program director, the house officer must contact the Office of Graduate Medical Education to begin the leave process. With the understanding that each house officer's leave request is unique and nuanced, it is important to work closely with both the program director and the Office of Graduate Medical Education.
3. The Office of Graduate Medical Education will initiate a leave of absence application checklist and coordinate the leave of absence with the Office of Leave Management. The Office of Leave Management provides oversight of all leave types for MedStar associates and physicians and serves as a liaison with MedStar's leave management administrator.
4. House staff out on medical leave must be cleared to return to work through Occupational Health prior to rejoining the GME training program.

VI. Training Program Extensions

1. In the event of a leave of absence, the GME training program may need to be extended in order to fulfill program and/or certifying board requirements.
2. Each program director should have their own programmatic policy which defines the amount of leave permissible for satisfactory completion of the program and specialty board eligibility. Program directors are responsible for ensuring that their house staff are provided with accurate information regarding the impact of an extended leave of absence on satisfactory completion of the program and eligibility to participate in examinations by the relevant certifying board(s).
3. Program directors must notify the Office of Graduate Medical Education of any training program extensions as soon as possible so that the graduation date and institutional record of the house officer can be modified as necessary.

Policy Approved by: MedStar Health GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Misconduct Policy

MedStar Health
Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy and process for all graduate medical education (GME) programs at MedStar Health to use when allegations of misconduct are made against a house staff officer.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all Graduate Medical Education (GME) training programs at MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows participating in a program of post-graduate medical education.

Misconduct – Improper behavior; intentional wrongdoing; violation of a law, standard of practice, or policy of the program, department, or hospital. Misconduct may also constitute unprofessional behavior, which may also trigger action under the Academic Improvement Policy. These actions may proceed simultaneously.

IV. Process

A. Allegations of Misconduct: A house officer, employee of the Hospital, attending physician, patient, or any other person who believes that a house officer has engaged in misconduct or improper behavior of any kind should immediately report his/her concerns to his/her supervisor, or any other supervisor in the Hospital, who in turn should communicate the allegations to the house officer's Program Director.

B. Upon receipt of a complaint regarding the conduct of a house officer, the Program Director should conduct an inquiry, as follows:

1. Meet with the person complaining of the misconduct to understand the nature of the complaint and any related information.
2. Meet with the house officer to advise the house officer of the existence of the complaint, to give the house officer an opportunity to respond to the allegations, and to identify any potential witnesses to the alleged misconduct.
3. Based on the information received from the complaint and the information received from the house officer, the Program Director must determine if a continued inquiry needs to take place in order to reach a conclusion in the matter. In order to do this, the Program Director should talk with the Assistant Vice President, GME or their designee to review the situation and determine proper direction. If a continued inquiry is not warranted, then with the consent of the Assistant Vice President, GME, one does not need to be conducted.
4. If an inquiry is warranted, the Program Director should consult with the Assistant Vice President, GME to determine whether others should be contacted or included in the inquiry process as appropriate based on the issues at hand and the people involved. For example, Human Resources, Compliance, Security, or other departments may need to be included. The Associate DIO of the institution should serve in a hands-on role during the inquiry process.
5. All allegations of sexual harassment will be reported immediately to Human Resources in accordance with the Hospital's policy against harassment.

6. A continued inquiry process is administered by the Assistant Vice President, GME. Information learned during the inquiry will be prepared into a report and provided to the program director for final review and decision making.
 7. Upon consensus of the Program Director and Assistant Vice President, GME, the accused house staff officer can be removed from duty (with or without pay) pending the outcome of the inquiry process. If no findings of misconduct are found, the house officer's pay will be reinstated in full.
- C. Upon receipt of the inquiry report, the program director will review the findings with the Assistant Vice President, GME and together they will determine an appropriate course of action. This determination may be made upon consultation with others including Human Resources, Legal, or others.
- D. The Program may take actions including, without limitation, the following:

1. A verbal or written warning*

2. Reportable Actions:

- a) **Election to not promote to the next PGY level**
- b) **Non-renewal of contract**
- c) **Suspension**
- d) **Dismissal from the residency or fellowship program**

* If the program director determines that misconduct occurred, but the level of misconduct does not rise to a required dismissal from the program, and that the house officer has the ability learn from the experience, then the issue can be converted to an academic matter. In this situation, the house officer should receive a Letter of Misconduct outlining the issue, future expectations, and academic improvement required under the competence of professionalism.

Reportable Actions: The decision not to promote a house officer to the next PGY Level, not to renew a house officer's contract, to suspend a house officer, and/or to terminate the house officer's participation in a residency or fellowship program are each considered "reportable actions." Reportable Actions are those actions that the Program must disclose to others upon request, including without limitation, future employers, privileging hospitals, and licensing and specialty boards. House Officers who are subject to a Reportable Action may request a review of the decision as provided in this Policy.

E. Request for Review: A review of the decision to take a Reportable Action may be requested by the house officer. A Request for Review should be submitted to the Assistant Vice President, GME within fourteen (14) days of learning of the Reportable Action. Upon receipt of a Request for Review, the Assistant Vice President, GME will first determine whether the matter is reviewable under this Policy, and if so, the Assistant Vice President, GME shall advise the Physician Chair of the System GMEC and the Corporate for Vice President Academic Affairs (or their designee) who will:

1. Review the complaint
2. Meet with the house officer
3. Review the house officer's file and the inquiry report
4. Meet with the program director
5. Consider any extenuating circumstances
6. Consult with others, as appropriate, to assist in the decision making process; and
7. Determine whether this Policy was followed. That is, that the house officer received notice and an opportunity to be heard, and the decision to take the Reportable Action was reasonably made.

The Assistant Vice President, GME will:

1. Advise the Physician Chair of the System GMEC and the Corporate VP, Academic Affairs of the request for review
2. Assist the Physician Chair of the System GMEC (or designee) to identify other potential participants, if warranted
3. Monitor timely completion of the review process

The decision resulting from this review is a final and binding decision. A written report will be provided to the resident and the program director, and others as appropriate.

V. No Retaliation:

Initial and full inquiries will be conducted with due regard for confidentiality to the extent practicable. Under no circumstances may anyone retaliate against, interfere with or discourage anyone from participating in good faith in an initial inquiry or a full inquiry conducted under this policy. A house staff officer who believes he/she may have been retaliated against in violation of this policy should immediately report it to their supervisor, the Assistant Vice President, GME, or any other supervisor.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Moonlighting and Outside Professional Employment

MedStar Health

Graduate Medical Education Policy

I. Purpose

To establish guidelines for employment outside of the MedStar Health System academic curriculum for residency and fellowship training.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers participating in post-graduate training programs at MedStar Health hospitals.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health hospital's post-graduate training program.

Post-Graduate Training Program – refers to a structured residency or fellowship educational program accredited by the ACGMC, CPMB, ADA or other recognized accrediting body, or a non-accredited program which is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), for purposes of clinical education (collectively "approved programs"). For purposes of this policy, graduate medical education programs also include structured educational programs that are unapproved and unaccredited (collectively "unapproved programs").

Moonlighting – refers to any and all clinical activities outside of the scope of the defined post-graduate training program.

External Moonlighting – refers to moonlighting on behalf of an employer other than the sponsoring institution and any of its academically affiliated sites.

Internal Moonlighting – refers to moonlighting on behalf of the sponsoring institution or any of its academically affiliated sites.

Outside Professional Employment – refers to any non-clinical employment a house officer engages in outside of the defined post-graduate training program.

IV. Conditions/Requirements

A. General Restrictions

1. No house officer may moonlight without having first obtained, at their own cost, an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the jurisdiction in which the moonlighting activity will take place.
2. No house officer may moonlight without first having been appropriately credentialed by the medical staff office of the facility where the moonlighting is to occur.
3. Any house officer holding an H-1B or J-1 visa, by virtue of USCIS regulations and/or ECFMG sponsorship, is not allowed to accept work or receive income in any capacity other than that of a resident physician in the specific residency identified on the DS2019 issued by the ECFMG or the visa petition approved by the USCIS.
4. Moonlighting, whether internal or external, is prohibited if it is inconsistent with providing residents and fellows sufficient time for educational activities. Moonlighting will only be approved if, in the judgment of the Program Director, the proposed moonlighting activity will not interfere with the house officer's ability to meet his/her educational obligations in a satisfactory manner. The Program Director must prospectively approve, in writing, all moonlighting of house officers within their scope of supervision. This written approval will be noted in the house officer's institutional personnel (GME) file. The Program Director may withdraw permission for moonlighting activities if he/she determines the moonlighting activities are having an adverse effect upon participation in educational activities.

B. House Staff in Approved (Accredited) Programs.

1. A house officer in an approved program is never required to moonlight, but moonlighting may be permissible under certain circumstances.
2. External Moonlighting
 - a) A house officer may moonlight externally if: (i) the house officer is fully licensed and credentialed by the facility where the moonlighting is to occur; and (ii) the house officer has the prior written permission of the Program Director.
 - b) A house officer who moonlights outside of the MedStar Health System is not provided coverage of professional liability insurance by MedStar Health or its affiliates. It is the responsibility of the moonlighting house officer to obtain appropriate professional liability insurance for any moonlighting activity outside of the MedStar Health System.
3. Internal Moonlighting
 - a) Any moonlighting occurring within the sponsoring institution (or its academically affiliated sites) must be counted toward duty hour limits (80 hour rule, 30 hour rule, and 10-hour rest period). It is the responsibility of the program director and the institution to monitor and comply with all duty hour regulations.
 - b) A house officer may only moonlight within the sponsoring institution (including any of its academically affiliated sites) if: (i) the house officer is fully licensed and credentialed by the medical staff office of the facility where the moonlighting is to occur; (ii) the services to be performed can be distinguished from those services that are part of the house officer's training program; (iii) the services will be performed in an outpatient department or emergency department of the sponsoring institution;¹ and (iv) the house officer has the prior written permission of the program director.

¹ If these criteria are not met, there can be no reimbursement for the house officer's moonlighting activities under Medicare Parts A or B. The house officer cannot bill Medicare Part B, and in order for the attending physician to bill Medicare Part B the attending physician must have: (1) participated in the service; and (2) the attending physician's provision of services must be properly documented in accordance with applicable reimbursement guidelines. In addition, all costs associated with the house officer's moonlighting activities must be separated out and not included on the cost report line relating to residency training on the Hospital's Medicare cost report.

(i) House staff in graduate medical education programs may not moonlight within the sponsoring institution or any academically affiliated site, unless the services to be provided during moonlighting are clearly distinguishable from the services furnished by the house officer in his/her approved or recognized medical training program. Any proposed services that fall within the scope of the house officer's training program or within the house officer's department is presumptively forbidden. Factors to be considered in determining whether proposed services are distinguishable from the services furnished by the house officer in an approved or recognized medical training program include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Whether the house officer is working on the same unit during moonlighting activities and during the activities of the training program;
- (2) Whether the house officer is seeing the same patients during moonlighting activities and during the activities of the training program;
- (3) Whether the house officer is performing work for which he/she would require supervision if the work were performed during the regularly scheduled hours of the residency training program;
- (4) Whether the house officer will be evaluated for the moonlighting activities through the residency/fellowship program evaluation process; and
- (5) Whether the house officer is using any of the patients seen during the moonlighting activities as case studies for residency/fellowship program papers.

4. The VPMA of the hospital must review the aforementioned five criteria to determine if services are separate and distinguishable. If that determination is made, then the decision should be memorialized by way of a memo to the file and made available for future review.
5. House staff in approved programs who meet all of the above criteria and who wish to moonlight must have a separate contract that specifies the services they are permitted to provide independently. The contract must specify that these services are not part of their residency/fellowship program. The contract also must indicate a separate salary that will be paid at fair market value for these services. The contract must be terminable at the discretion of the training Program Director, if at any time he or she concludes that the moonlighting services are interfering with the house officer's educational responsibilities. Such contracts must meet all requirements of the Hospital's Contract Administration Policy, including review by the Legal Department, as necessary.
6. A house officer who engages in internal moonlighting activities at an academically affiliated site that is not part of the MedStar Health System is not provided coverage of professional liability insurance by MedStar Health. It is the responsibility of the moonlighting house officer to obtain appropriate professional liability insurance for any moonlighting activity outside of the MedStar Health System.

C. House Staff in Unapproved (non-Accredited) Programs.

1. External Moonlighting

- a) A fellow who is enrolled in an unapproved program may moonlight externally if: (i) the fellow is fully licensed and credentialed by the facility where the moonlighting is to occur; and (ii) the fellow has the prior written permission of the Program Director.
- b) A fellow who is enrolled in an unapproved program who moonlights outside of the MedStar Health System is not provided coverage of professional liability insurance by MedStar Health or its affiliates. It is the responsibility of the moonlighting fellow to obtain appropriate professional liability insurance for any moonlighting activity outside of the MedStar Health System.

2. Internal Moonlighting

A fellow who is enrolled in an unapproved program may moonlight within the sponsoring institution (or its academically affiliated sites) under the following circumstances:

- a) A fellow who is enrolled in an unapproved program may moonlight in any position within the institution for which he or she is qualified, if (a) the house officer is fully licensed and credentialed; and (b) the house officer's position is not included in the sponsoring institution's GME Cost Report.
 - b) In the judgment of the Program Director, the proposed moonlighting activity does not interfere with the fellow's ability to meet his/her educational obligations in a satisfactory manner.
 - c) Any moonlighting occurring within the sponsoring institution (or its academically affiliated sites) must be counted towards the 80-hour weekly limit on duty hours.
3. Fellows enrolled in an unapproved program who meet all of the above criteria and who wish to moonlight internally must have a separate contract that specifies the services they are permitted to provide independently. The contract must specify that these services are not part of their fellowship program. The contract also must indicate a separate salary that will be paid at fair market value for these services. The contract must be terminable at the discretion of the training Program Director, if at any time he or she concludes that the moonlighting services are interfering with the house officer's educational responsibilities. Such contracts must meet all requirements of the Hospital's Contract Administration Policy, including review by the Legal Department, as necessary.
 4. Fellows enrolled in an unapproved program who meet all of the above criteria and engage in moonlighting may bill for any services within the scope of his or her license and employment contract.

Policy Approved by the VPMA Council August 5, 2010

Non-competition Guarantees and Restrictive Covenants

I. Purpose

To establish a policy outlining non-competition guarantees and restrictive covenants for house staff.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

IV. Non-Competition Guarantee and Restrictive Covenants

A. Under no circumstance will a MedStar Health house officer be required to sign a non-competition guarantee or a restrictive covenant as a condition of employment or enrollment in a GME program.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

If an extension of training is necessary, the house officer should make up the missed time before being promoted

Paid Time Off and Leaves of Absence

I. Purpose

To establish a policy outlining paid time off (PTO) benefits and leaves of absence for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

IV. PTO Benefits

A. All house staff are eligible for two weeks of PTO, which includes vacation, personal and sick time. PTO requests must be made in advance to the program director or the appropriate departmental designee. Requests will be granted based upon a number of factors, including operational need and staffing requirements. An additional two weeks of PTO may be granted with the approval of the program director, and in accordance with program specific PTO policies. Holiday scheduling for house staff is determined by each program individually, and is dependent upon 24-hour operational and staffing needs.

B. House staff do not accrue PTO. Any unused PTO will be forfeited upon conclusion of the residency/fellowship training period.

V. Leaves of Absence

A. In the event of a leave of absence, the educational training period may be extended in order to fulfill the department, specialty board, or state licensing board's requirements. Each program director should have their own programmatic policy which defines the amount of leave permissible for satisfactory completion of the program and specialty board eligibility. Program directors are responsible for ensuring that their house staff are provided with accurate information regarding the impact of an extended leave of absence on satisfactory completion of the program and eligibility to participate in examinations by the relevant certifying board(s).

B. House staff and program directors must adhere to each specialty board's policy specifying the maximum amount of time a house staff officer may be absent during each year of training. If a house staff officer's educational training period must be extended to satisfy board and/or department requirements, he/she must make up the excess time before being promoted to the next PGY level.

C. House staff must be given the opportunity to attend medical, mental health, and dental care appointments, including those scheduled during their working hours. It is up to each educational program to determine the process by which a house officer should request the time off.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Personal Use of Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace

Effective Date: October 01, 2019

Last Reviewed: January 1, 2024

Purpose

To ensure that an associate's personal use of drugs or alcohol does not affect the safety of our patients or other associates. This policy applies to all employed associates, physicians (private and employed) and physician residents, as well as non-employed individuals who work or learn at MedStar Health sites, including without limitation: students, rotating residents, volunteers, contingent staff and contractors.

References made to "associates" are intended to apply to all of the above.

MedStar Health does not permit the illicit use of drugs or other controlled substances or misuse of alcohol by associates while working or engaged in MedStar Health business. Associates who misuse, possess, sell, divert or transfer drugs or other controlled substances, or who offer to divert, buy or sell such substances, are subject to corrective action up to and including dismissal. Likewise, associates who misuse drugs or other controlled sub-

stances or alcohol during work hours or whose use of drugs or other controlled substances or alcohol off-duty affects their job performance or reflects poorly on MedStar Health's reputation are subject to corrective action or dismissal. "Illicit use" means, without limitation, the misuse of prescription drugs, misuse of Cannabis, or the use of cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or methamphetamine. Misuse of prescription drugs is defined as use in any way not directed by a doctor, including use without a prescription of one's own; use in greater amounts, more often, or longer than told; or use in any other way not directed by a doctor. As a High Reliability Organization (HRO), MedStar Health employs a Care for the Caregiver approach in all instances in violation of this policy.

Philosophy Statement

MedStar Health expects all associates to contribute to a professional and collegial environment by exemplifying the SPIRIT (Service, Patient First, Integrity, Respect, Innovation, and Teamwork) Values with our patients, visitors, customers and colleagues.

Procedure

A. Establishment of Reasonable Suspicion

All associates who believe they may be impaired by drugs or alcohol, suspect that a co-worker may be impaired or who have reason to suspect diversion or noncompliance with this policy are expected to report their concerns to their supervisor. MedStar Health will remove a potentially impaired associate from the workplace where there is reasonable suspicion that the associate may be under the influence of drugs or other controlled substances or alcohol at work, or when there is reasonable suspicion that an associate has been involved in diversion of drugs in the workplace.

Reasonable suspicion may be based on reports or direct observation of impairment including behavior, or conduct that includes, but is not limited to: slurred speech; glassy eyes; inability to perform tasks; sleeping or inability to stay awake; accident involving hospital property or on hospital premises; agitated or violent behavior; disorientation; loss of coordination unexplained changes in performance; or odor of alcohol on breath.

Reasonable suspicion may also be based on recommendations from investigators at the local site after investigation of evidence that includes, but is not limited to: indicators from diversion analytics software; reports from automated dispensing machines or electronic safes; discovery of physical evidence; possession of alcohol or illegal drugs; unauthorized or inappropriate possession of controlled substances; discrepancies regarding narcotic counts or administration; or information from another credible source.

B. Fair and Transparent Management of Cases

1. Associates who self-report potential impairment are placed on leave and treated with as much privacy as possible.

MedStar Health offers a job-protected leave of absence, short-term disability benefits (pay), and continued health insurance coverage to all eligible associates in order to allow the associate to seek and receive appropriate treatment.

2. Associates who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or other controlled substances or alcohol in the workplace, are placed on suspension with pay pending completion of an investigation, which includes a urine drug test, and may include additional investigatory steps.
 - a. This leave may be converted to a leave of absence with short-term disability benefits if the associate immediately seeks treatment (which is encouraged).
3. Associates who are suspected of diverting drugs for sale or distribution to others will be placed on suspension with pay pending completion of an investigation.
4. Non-employed individuals are not eligible for employment-based benefits, such as leaves of absence, short-term disability benefits or health insurance coverage. However, MedStar Health remains committed to en-

couraging all impaired individuals to receive effective treatment, and to considering each case on an individualized basis.

5. Where required by law, and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, MedStar Health will complete reporting to appropriate agencies, i.e., professional licensing boards, other State/Local agencies, etc. All reporting will be conducted in collaboration with MedStar Health's Office of the General Counsel.
6. If the associate seeks to return to work, a final decision on whether and under what conditions an associate returns will be made based on the totality of the facts and circumstances then known to MedStar Health.
 - a. Factors that may be considered include, without limitation, whether the associate voluntarily self-reported the issue, whether the associate cooperated fully in MedStar Health's investigation, whether the associate's behavior placed patients or associates at risk, whether the associate violated legal, ethical, or behavior standards, whether the associate has successfully completed treatment and is committed to continuing in recovery, whether the associate's treating provider recommends return to the healthcare work environment, whether there is a suitable position available, and whether the associate's license (if any) remains intact. If MedStar Health concludes that an associate or non-employed individual diverted drugs for sale or distribution, the associate or non-employed individual will be terminated and will not be eligible to return to work.
 - b. Before returning to work, the associate must be cleared through Occupational Health as fit for duty, at which time consideration will be given to any required accommodations or on-going monitoring and treatment recommended by the associate's caregiver. Associates will be required to enter into, and comply with, a monitoring agreement as a condition of continued employment. Violation of the monitoring agreement may result in corrective action, up to and including dismissal.
7. MedStar Health will conduct an individualized assessment of each case using a small group of leaders with experience in managing diversion/impairment issues for similar associates.
8. To ensure future safety of patients and associates, MedStar Health will use dedicated peer review committees to monitor and oversee associate's or non-employed individual's compliance with monitoring agreements. These committees include a Physicians Health Committee (including residents, fellows and credentialed providers), a Nurses and Licensed Health Professionals Health Committee, and an Associates Health Committee.

Please contact your supervisor or Human Resources with any questions regarding this policy.

Provisions of this policy apply to all associates to the extent they do not conflict with relevant terms of an applicable contract.

Professional Liability Insurance

I. Purpose

To establish a policy outlining professional liability insurance coverage for all assignments within the scope of the training program in Graduate Medical Education (GME) within MedStar Health.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all house officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

IV. Professional Liability Coverage

A. As agents of the hospital, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the hospital and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), house staff are covered for professional liability by the MedStar Health, Inc. Risk Management Financing Plan for all work performed within the scope of the training program. House staff are covered under this plan for any incident that occurs while employed by MedStar Health, even if the claim arises after employment terminates. Coverage through the Plan provides limits of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000 and is occurrence based. In addition, excess coverage is purchased on a claims made basis. All subpoenas and information relating to professional liability actions against the hospital or its staff should be referred to Risk Management or Legal Affairs.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Program Closures and Reductions in Force

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) programs at MedStar Health to state the intentions of the Hospitals regarding the potential for program closure or reductions in force.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all GME training programs within the MedStar Health system.

III. Definitions

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a GME training program.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. The Sponsoring Institution will make every effort to notify the DIO and Graduate Medical Education Committee in writing as soon as possible of any major change in a training program, i.e. reduction in the size of a program or program closure.

B. House staff will be notified in writing as soon as possible of any major change in the training program.

C. All current contracts will be honored.

D. If possible, house staff currently enrolled in impacted GME training programs will be allowed to complete their education. Otherwise, every effort will be made to help each house officer find alternative training in an accredited program.

E. The ACGME or accrediting body will be notified as soon as possible of the Sponsoring Institution's intention to permanently reduce the approved complement of a program or to close a program.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Promotion of House Officers

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within MedStar Health to use in the promotion and appointment of house officers to the next level of training.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all GME training programs in the MedStar Health system. All information contained in this policy shall be used as minimum criteria for promotion. More detailed promotion criteria shall be delineated by each clinical department in its respective Departmental Promotion Policy.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows participating in a MedStar Health training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a residency or fellowship educational program.

Letter of Deficiency – refers to the process of formally providing “notice and opportunity to cure” as described in the “Academic Improvement” Policy.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. The decision as to whether or not to re-appoint and promote a House Staff officer to the next level of training shall be made annually by the Program Director upon review of the House Staff officer’s performance.

B. The Program Director shall consider all feedback and evaluations of the House Staff officer’s performance (refer to the Policy for Evaluation of House Officers) and any other criteria deemed appropriate by the Program Director.

C. Pursuant to the Academic Improvement policy, House Staff officers must be provided with a written notice when that House Staff officer’s contract will not be renewed, when that House Staff officer will not be promoted to the next level of training, or when that House Staff officer will be dismissed.

D. Graduate Medical Education should be notified immediately upon the Department’s decision to not renew a house staff contract.

E. The Program Director may elect to extend the House Staff officer’s contract pending satisfactory completion of academic requirements. In this event, the decision to promote will be deferred until satisfactory completion of the educational program is confirmed.

F. A decision not to extend or promote a House Staff officer’s contract should be preceded by a Letter of Deficiency pursuant to the Academic Improvement Policy.

G. If a program director elects not to promote a House Staff officer, or extend a House Staff officer’s contract, the House Staff officer has a right to due process in accordance with the Academic Improvement Policy or the House Officer Misconduct Policy.

V. Non-Renewal of Contract

See Policy for “Dismissal and Termination”

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Selection and Credentialing of House Officers

*MedStar Health
Graduate Medical Education Policy*

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) training programs within the MedStar Health system to use in the selection of House Staff officers. To further establish a procedure for the credentialing of House Staff officers.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all GME training programs in the MedStar Health system. All information contained in this policy shall be used as minimum criteria for selection. More detailed selection criteria shall be delineated by each clinical department in its respective Departmental Selection Policy.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a training program regardless of accreditation status.

Match – refers to the formal process of matching House Staff officers to accredited training programs, administered by an official program including, but not limited to, the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP).

Responsibilities/Requirements

A. All applicants for a House Staff position must be graduates or pending graduates of:

1. An LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) accredited medical school in the United States or Canada; or
2. An AOA (American Osteopathic Association) accredited medical school in the United States; or
3. An accredited college for specialty training in Podiatric Medicine or an American Dental Association (ADA) accredited dental school;
4. Graduation from a medical school outside of the United States or Canada, and meeting one of the following additional criteria:
 - a) Holds a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates prior to appointment; or
 - b) Holds a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in a United States licensing jurisdiction in his or her current ACGME specialty/subspecialty program; or,
 - c) Has graduated from a medical school outside of the United States and has completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME-accredited medical school.

B. All applications for House Staff positions must be submitted by one of the following methods:

1. The Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS); or
2. The Universal Application for Residency Training; or
3. Approved MedStar GME application for residency training.

C. The Program Director, or designee, will evaluate and select the candidates he/she believes to be the most qualified for the positions available within the training program.

D. **PROCEDURE.** Once an applicant is selected for an interview, the following procedure must be employed by all programs:

1. The following credentials must be collected for each candidate:
 - a) Application and Personal Statement

- b) Original Dean's letter
 - c) Original (certified) Medical School Transcript
 - d) Verification of graduation from the Medical School. (Appointments to PGY- 1 positions may be made prior to graduation; however, graduation must be verified before the PGY-1 resident begins the program).
 - e) Three (3) letters of reference from attending physicians familiar with the individual's performance. If the candidate has previously been in a GME training program, one letter must be from the candidate's former Program Director.
 - f) Documentation of successful completion of Steps 1 and 2CK of the United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) or Level 1 and 2CE of the COMLEX Examination OR successful completion of APMLE Parts 1 and 2/ iNBDE or NBDE Parts 1 and 2 as applicable. If an applicant has not received the passing results at the time of interview, successful completion will become a "Condition of Employment."
 - g) Candidates for fellowship positions must have successful completion of USMLE Step 3, COMLEX Level 3, or AMPLE Part 3. If an applicant has not received the results of Step 3/Level 3/ Part 3 at the time of interview, successful completion will become a "Condition of Employment."
2. Candidates of medical schools that are not accredited by the LCME, the AOA or other accredited college for specialty training must have the following additional documentation:
 - a) Official certified translations of all documents listed above in English; and
 - b) Certification by the Educational Commission of Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG).
 3. Candidates for non-accredited training programs who are not graduates of LCME or AOA accredited schools and who have not completed residency training in the United States must be reviewed and approved per the Sixth Pathway criteria and process noted under Section 4.b(1-5) of this Selection Policy.
4. TRANSFERS AND "OUT OF MATCH" CANDIDATES:
- a) In addition, before accepting a House Staff officer who is transferring from another program or is taken outside of a formal match, written verification of previous GME training and a competency-based summative performance evaluation of the candidate must be obtained.
 - b) The complete application and verification of previous GME training must be reviewed and approved by the Assistant Vice President, GME prior to any offers of employment.
 1. If the AVP-GME does not deem the candidate to meet acceptable standards for employment, s/he will notify the Program Director and the Department Chair of the decision.
 2. The Program Director, together with the respective Department Chair, may request a second review of the candidate which will be done by either the VP-Academic Affairs/DIO and/or the Physician Chair of the GMEC.
 3. If the second review also results in determination of unacceptable candidacy, then the applicant will not be permitted to proceed with enrollment in a MedStar Health program.
 4. If either the AVP-GME or the VP-Academic Affairs and/or the Physician Chair of the GMEC endorse the candidate as meeting criteria, the application must then be reviewed and approved by the Institution's GMEC.

5. For **non-accredited training programs** wishing to enroll a candidate who has no prior training in the United States (6th Pathway), the GMEC provide “substantial oversight” of the candidate’s acceptability for training based on the following criteria (as developed/maintained by ECFMG and ACGME):
 - a. Determine the candidate meets criteria as “exceptionally qualified” international graduate based on all three of the following criteria:
 1. Completed a residency program in the core specialty outside the continental United States that was not accredited by the ACGME, AOA, ACGME-I, RCPSC or CFPC, and
 2. Demonstrates clinical excellence, in comparison to peers, throughout training; and
 3. Additional evidence of exceptional qualifications which may be met by one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Participation in additional clinical or research training in the specialty or subspecialty;
 - b. Demonstrated scholarship in the specialty or subspecialty; and/or
 - c. Demonstrated leadership during or after residency.
 - b. Applicants being considered for these positions must be informed of the fact that their training may not lead to certification by ABMS member boards or AOA certifying boards.
5. All candidates should interview with the Program Director (or designee) and one or more members of the faculty. Telephone or virtual interviews are granted in lieu of a personal interview in the event of business necessity, such as the COVID pandemic and/or recommendation of COPA.
6. All accredited training programs are expected to participate in a formal match, such as but not limited to, the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) and to follow all rules and requirements as set forth by the official matching program.
7. All candidates should be evaluated based on the following minimum criteria:
 - a) Preparedness
 - b) Ability
 - c) Aptitude
 - d) Academic credentials
 - e) Communication skills
 - f) Personal qualities, such as motivation and integrity
8. All candidates invited for interviews must be informed in written or electronic format, of the terms, conditions and benefits of appointment either in effect at the time of the interview or that will be in effect at the time of eventual appointment to include:
 - a) Financial support;
 - b) Vacations; parental, sick and other leaves of absence;
 - c) Professional liability, hospitalization, health, disability and other insurance accessible to the House Staff and their eligible dependents.

9. Upon selection (or after the Match), contracts shall be prepared by Graduate Medical Education, and signed by the Vice President, Academic Affairs. All contracts for categorical House Staff throughout the system will follow the academic/fiscal year dates beginning July 1 and ending on June 30 of each year, except during the first year of residency/fellowship when contract start dates will coincide with the first day of MedStar House Staff Orientation. Preliminary House Staff contract start dates will also coincide with the first day of MedStar House Staff Orientation and may end earlier than June 30. Occasionally, House Staff contracts may be “off-cycle” due to leaves of absence or other performance-related reasons.
10. If any of the required credentials documentation, as identified above, is missing on the effective date of the contract, the contract may be void.
11. If a prospective House Staff officer fails to graduate from medical school prior to the start date of the residency program, the contract will be made null and void.
12. MedStar Health is an equal opportunity employer. GME training programs will not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or veteran status. MedStar Health is committed to recruiting and retaining a GME house staff that is diverse, inclusive and equitable.
13. **CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:** Offers of employment and/or acceptance into the educational program are contingent upon certain conditions, including but not limited to:
 - a) Pre-employment health examination and drug screen
 - b) Criminal background check
 - c) Primary source verification of medical school completion and any previous GME experience
 - d) Successful completion (pass) of USMLE Steps 1 and 2CK, or COMLEX Level 1 and 2 CE, if not completed at the time of interview; OR successful completion of APMLE Parts 1 and 2/ iNBDE or NBDE Parts 1 and 2 as applicable. For a fellowship position, this includes successful completion of USMLE Step 3/COMLEX Level 3/AMPLE Part 3.
 - e) Approved enrollment in the respective state licensing program for trainees and/or approval of a full license for practice.

E. Medical Staff Credentialing

1. GME House officers, enrolled in any program (accredited or non-accredited) shall not apply for or be granted medical staff credentials or privileges at any MedStar Health entity unless an approval exception is made by the AVP-GME. This includes all enrolled chief residents, regardless of their board-eligibility status.
2. Approval Exceptions may include:
 - a) MedStar Health GME approved moonlighting where the house officer will serve as the attending physician of record for such moonlighting activities (refer to the MedStar Health GME Moonlighting Policy for process and requirements and approvals); or
 - b) Approved non-accredited fellowships that are structured and approved to include a portion of the trainee’s time in clinical practice at specific sites within the health system
3. Any other requests for exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the VP- Academic Affairs and/or the Physician Chair of the GMEC.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC (DATE)

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Checklist for House Staff Transferring from Outside Programs:

- ☐ Letter from Outside Program Director(s) from any previous training program(s)
- ☐ Dean's Letter
- ☐ Written Verification of Previous Educational Experience
- ☐ Final Summative Evaluation(s)
- ☐ Milestones Evaluation(s)
- ☐ Review and approval by DIO/GME

Based on the documentation provided above, an offer of employment is:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Not Approved

DIO Signature

Date

GME Signature

Date

Social Media Policy

I. Purpose:

To establish the guidelines of acceptable use of social media by MedStar Health associates and affiliated staff, including creation of official sites and participation in public sites.

II. Policy

MedStar Health supports the use of social media by its associates, understanding that participation in online communities can promote better communication with colleagues, the general public, and other community stakeholders.

MedStar Health trusts and expects that associates exercise personal responsibility when participating in social media activity. MedStar Health expects that associates and affiliated staff who engage in social media will be mindful that their postings impact MedStar Health's reputation and legitimate business interests. Social media activity may include, but is not limited to, online forums, blogs, microblogs, wikis, videologs, and social networks. Current examples of social networks include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok, and Doximity. Communications within these platforms need to be consistent with MedStar Health policies, guidelines, and standards.

III. Overview

MedStar Health trusts and expects that associates understand that their social media use can affect MedStar Health cyber-security. Like any other interaction on the internet, social media use provides an opportunity for cyber-criminals to access information. Associates may also reveal proprietary or confidential information unintentionally through their social media activities that could violate the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or the privacy and security of protected health information (PHI). For example, associates may not realize that part of a patient file is visible in a picture, violating HIPAA rules and MedStar Health policy. In addition, opening or viewing a suspicious link on social media may infect a MedStar Health computer or device affecting the overall security of our information systems.

IV. Scope

This policy applies to all associates, volunteers, students, physicians, residents, contractors and vendors of MedStar Health, (collectively “associates and affiliated staff”) and its affiliated entities (collectively “MedStar Health” or “MedStar Health”).

Independent physicians on our medical staff and physicians with privileges at a MedStar Health facility are also covered under this policy since HIPAA requires confidentiality of patient information regardless of the media platform.

V. Definitions

Communications—Communications on a social network includes content shared via written text, image, audio, animation or video (including streaming video). Content includes user generated content and shared posts.

Digital Marketing—Corporate department, within the Corporate Marketing and Strategy department, responsible for governing and administering the strategy and policy for social media at MedStar Health. To contact Digital Marketing regarding social media, email web@MedStar Health.net.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)—Federal regulation that sets forth privacy and security standards to protect personal health information.

MedStar Health Resource—Computers, cell phones, wired and wireless devices, networks, online resources and bandwidth paid for by MedStar Health and made available to associates and affiliated staff to perform business and clinical functions and other job responsibilities on behalf of MedStar Health.

Personal Social Media Activities—Accessing or posting information to a social media site not related to an individual’s job responsibilities for MedStar Health, participation in MedStar Health sanctioned activities or associated professional activities.

Private Message—A private form of messaging between different members on a given platform. It is only seen and accessible by the users participating in the message.

Protected Health Information—Protected Health Information or PHI means individually identifiable health information that is created or received by a covered entity (e.g. MedStar Health)

Social Media Platforms—Websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking. These include online forums, blogs, microblogs, wikis, videologs, and social network sites. Examples of social network sites include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram and SnapChat.

VI. Procedures

A. General Guidelines

1. MedStar Health respects the right of individuals to use social media for personal reasons, using their own resources, and on their own time.
2. Individuals must not use social media to make claims on behalf of MedStar Health (e.g. claiming that MedStar Health is part of a lawsuit)
3. By adding MedStar Health as their employer on social media accounts, or representing themselves as an associate of MedStar Health, associates acknowledge that they are representing MedStar Health’s SPIRIT Values, and their social media activities must reflect our organization’s values.
4. Each individual associate, physician and volunteer of MedStar Health or its affiliates is responsible for all content (either posted by you or someone else) posted on social media (written, audio, video, or otherwise) on that individual associate’s account.

5. Associates must use a personal email address (not a MedStar Health address) as primary means of identification for personal social media activities, with the exception of LinkedIn.
6. Associates must understand and follow the terms of use and community standards for each social network they use.
7. Communications sent via social media should be consistent with the MedStar Health Code of Conduct, and with MedStar Health's mission, vision, values, policies, and with all applicable laws.
8. Communications in online communities should never contain information that identifies a patient or his/her health condition in any way, even if a patient's name is not used, unless they have consented via the Photo, Interview and Media Consent Form.
9. Social media must not be used to respond to a patient's question about his/her care in a public response. Any such dialogue should be communicated via a secure private message (e.g. myMedStar Health patient portal).
10. Associates should never use discriminatory language or demonstrate discrimination on social media.
11. Associates should never use defamatory or libelous commentary on social media.
12. MedStar Health resources, including email and Internet access, are provided to support MedStar Health business purposes only. Managers have the right and responsibility to counsel their staff, revoke access privileges for abuse of the system, or take other corrective action, if necessary.
13. Photographs and recordings (audio and video) of patients and facilities are strictly prohibited from personal social media entries except as otherwise described herein.
 - a. The Marketing and Strategy Department is permitted to post photographs and recordings (audio and video) of MedStar Health patients and facilities with prior written consent via the Photo, Interview and Media Consent Form from the identified parties.
 - b. Associates are permitted to repost/share posts containing patient information on his/her personal social media account only after it's posted via an official MedStar Health page. Any other exceptions must be pre-approved by the Marketing and Strategy Department.
14. Photographs and recordings (audio and video) of MedStar Health associates are permitted for MedStar Health's marketing and communication purposes without written consent, unless otherwise required through an entity specific policy. Any associate may decline being photographed or recorded.
15. Any associate may refuse to be photographed or recorded by a patient or visitor. An associate may seek assistance from Security, if needed.
16. Photographs and recordings (audio and video) taken during public events, either on MedStar Health property or not, do not require written consent from the attendees. This includes photographs taken by any attendee.
17. Associates and affiliated staff must not respond to media or press contacts. If contacted for comment by the media, information should be forwarded to the appropriate Media Relations department.
18. Associates and affiliated staff not managing an official MedStar Health social media account must not respond to online complaints, criticisms, or negative commentary about MedStar Health. If negative commentary is observed, the information should be forwarded to Reputation Management or submitted via our website feedback form.
19. Associates with access to post on behalf of MedStar Health through its social media accounts are prohibited from creating and launching paid social advertising on MedStar Health social media platforms (refer to Content Owner Responsibilities in section 4.1). All advertising on social media networks is managed by Digital Marketing or Digital Agency of Record. Content owners who wish to advertise on MedStar Health

social media platforms must submit an official request form. For more information, please email web@MedStar Health.net.

20. Confidential business or proprietary information must not be disclosed via social media.
21. MedStar Health patients must not be referenced in social media entries without prior written consent through the Photo, Interview and Media Consent Form, obtained through the Marketing and Strategy Department. This is true even if associates believe they have anonymized the information, by, for example, not using the patient's name. The Photo, Interview and Media Consent Form authorizes MedStar Health, not an individual associate, to share patient information.
22. Content posted on social media that implies a partnership or endorsement by MedStar Health must be approved in advance by Marketing and Strategy. Posts regarding partnerships with sports teams/franchises should be brought to the attention of the Director of Sponsorship Marketing.
23. Individuals who have concerns regarding associate conduct or inappropriate behavior demonstrated on social media are encouraged to contact their immediate supervisor, Human Resources, or the MedStar Health Integrity Hotline at 877-811-3411.
24. Administrators and editors of MedStar Health's official social media accounts possessing a mobile device that can gain access to an official MedStar Health social media profile through a third-party app or mobile browser (whether or not it is used to post content) are responsible for implementing all appropriate security measures governing access, use and transmission of information, including, but not limited to, assuring devices are properly password protected (see 4.4).
25. Physicians who wish to have their professional social media account added to their Find a Doctor profile on the MedStar HealthHealth.org website, must first consult with Marketing and Strategy.

B. Creation of MedStar Health Business Social Media Account

It's against policy to create a social media account representing MedStar Health's business without prior approval from Marketing and Strategy.

C. Responsibilities

1. Human Resources
 - a. Ensures that all associates and others affiliated with MedStar Health are provided with information relating to this policy.
 - b. Assists management and associates in ensuring compliance with this policy.
 - c. Serves as a resource for management and associates in need of information.
 - d. Intervenes in any situation where this policy is being violated.
 - e. Contacts Information Services on behalf of managers to provide a detailed internet usage report when non-business activity is suspected.
2. Information Services (IS)
 - a. At the request of Human Resources, shuts down or restricts access to social media sites from MedStar Health network resources if the resources are being used in violation of this policy.
 - b. Provides internet activity logs and assists in interpreting those logs, when requested.
3. Management
 - a. Managers who have a business need to create an official MedStar Health social media profile/site must request permission from the vice president over their department, their entity's Marketing and Strategy department and Digital Marketing

- b. Vice presidents must review and approve requests for official social media profiles/sites based on a business need for the site.
- c. Managers will contact Human Resources when non-business online activity is suspected.

4. Editors of Official MedStar Health Social Media Accounts

- a. Editors, as named by their department's leadership, are responsible for posting content, responding to inquiries and maintaining compliance with HIPAA, MedStar Health policies (including Privacy, Security and Human Resources) and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- b. Authorize Digital Marketing as the administrators of the account.
- c. Complete mandatory social media training prior to receiving initial access to a MedStar Health social media account.
- d. Follow MedStar Health brand standards and social media best practices.
- e. Notify Digital Marketing if they possess a mobile device that can gain access to an official MedStar Health social media profile through a third-party app or mobile browser (whether or not it is used to post content). If mobile access is available, content owners must:
- f. Implement all appropriate security measures governing access, use and transmission of information, including, but not limited to, ensuring mobile devices are properly password protected and encrypted.
- g. Have general security awareness, including awareness of potential malicious software issues, knowledge of security and privacy policies and procedures, and awareness of the sensitivity levels of information processed on the personal mobile device (e.g. Protected Health Information (PHI)).
- h. Notify the ISD Help Desk should their mobile device be lost, stolen or compromised by any malicious software.
- i. Take appropriate precautions to appropriately safeguard their mobile device.

5. Entity Marketing and Strategy Department

- a. Approves, as appropriate, all requests for creation of official MedStar Health entity-level social media profiles/sites.
- b. Authorizes individuals to provide official content and responses on social media sites.
- c. Notifies Digital Marketing if/when an associate with access to a MedStar Health social media account leaves MedStar Health or is otherwise no longer in need of access.

6. Digital Marketing

- a. Approves, as appropriate, all requests for creation of official MedStar Health corporate and diversified business social media profiles/sites.
- b. Provides support and guidance on the management of MedStar Health social media profiles/sites, including overall strategy, brand guidelines, and best practices.
- c. Serves as primary owner of all official MedStar Health social media profiles/sites to aid in the smooth transfer of ownership and maintain continuity of control.
- d. Provides consult to MedStar Health associates on the social media policy.
- e. Maintain a comprehensive list of all MedStar Health social media accounts, passwords and associates who have access.

7. Brand Strategy

- a. Provides social media monitoring and response guidance.

8. Associates

- a. Be knowledgeable and follow MedStar Health's Code of Conduct and other policies relating to branding standards, intellectual property, privacy (including HIPAA), and confidentiality of business and patient information.
- b. Contact their manager, entity compliance officer, the Human Resources department, or the Integrity Hotline if they see any MedStar Health-related private information shared online.

D. What Constitutes Non-Compliance?

Some examples of non-compliance include, without limitation:

1. Use of MedStar Health resources for personal social media activity.
2. Disparaging MedStar Health, its associates, patients, physicians or agents, or any other healthcare organization on a social media platform, while acting as an official representative of MedStar Health.
3. Discussing confidential work-related activities on a social media platform
4. Posting any patient-related information on a social media platform without signed written patient consent and appropriate authorization. (see Section B)

E. Consequences of Non-Compliance

1. Non-compliance with this policy may result in corrective action, up to and including termination of employment or dismissal of contract staff. Managers should consult Human Resources when considering taking corrective actions.
2. If any of the following is found and brought to MedStar Health's attention in an online commentary posted by a MedStar Health associate, physician, volunteer, or contractor, it may be grounds for corrective action, even if it occurs as part of an individual's personal use of social media:
 - a. Posts that disclose confidential patient information or other confidential/proprietary information (see Section B)
 - b. Posts that are defamatory or libelous
 - c. Posts that are threatening, harassing, abusive or humiliating to another person or entity (even when a proper name isn't used)
 - d. Social networking activities that interfere with an associate's productivity or job duties.
 - e. Posts that attempt to conduct official MedStar Health business or clinical operations (e.g. responding to media or press contacts, acting as an official spokesperson for MedStar Health or providing clinical care to a MedStar Health patient)
3. If the approval process for a social media account representing MedStar Health's business has not been followed, an unauthorized social media profile/site may be shut down. MedStar Health reserves the right to require any associate to close an unapproved social media profile/site that refers to MedStar Health.

F. Related Policies

- Associate Conduct
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Human Resources Records
- Code of Conduct

- IS Security Policy
- Email Use Policy
- Branding policies
- HIPAA policies
- Intellectual Property policies
- Confidentiality policies
- Solicitation and Distribution Activities Policy
- Media Relations
- Harassment Prevention Policy
- GME policies
- Non-Discrimination Policy

G. Procedures which are related to the policy

Not Applicable.

H. Legal reporting requirements

Associates must contact the Legal Department or their manager in the event a threat to pursue legal action against MedStar Health is shared on social media. Associates must report any sign of violation of a patient's privacy to their manager, a compliance officer, or the Integrity Hotline at 877-811-3411 as soon as they are aware of it.

I. Reference to laws or regulations of outside bodies

Not Applicable.

J. Right to change or terminate policy

This policy should be modified with the advice of the Social Media Steering Committee, Human Resources, Legal, Compliance, Marketing and Strategy, and pursuant to the review and approval of the Legal department.

Version History

Version 7 Effective 12.8.19
 Version 6 Effective 10.8.18
 Version 5 Effective 2.27.17
 Version 4 Effective 2.28.14
 Version 3 Effective 8.2.13
 Version 2 Effective 7.12.13
 Version 1 Effective 12.1.11

Supervision of House Officers and Transitions of Care

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education (GME) programs at MedStar Health to ensure appropriate levels of supervision, progression of responsibility and procedural competency of House Staff.

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all House Staff officers who participate in a GME training program within MedStar Health. All information contained in this policy shall be used as minimum criteria for supervision. More detailed supervision criteria shall be delineated by each GME program in its respective Supervision Policy.

III. Definitions

Licensed Independent Practitioner – a physician with an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the appropriate state.

House Staff or House Staff officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a training program.

PGY – refers to “Post Graduate Year,” or the year of training in which the house officer is currently enrolled in past completion of medical school.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. In the clinical learning environment, each patient must have an identifiable, appropriately-credentialed and privileged attending physician (or licensed independent practitioner as approved by each Review Committee) who is ultimately responsible for that patient’s care.

1. This information should be available to house staff, faculty members, and patients.
2. House staff officers should inform patients of their respective roles in each patient’s care.

B. The program must demonstrate that the appropriate level of supervision is in place for all house staff who care for patients.

C. Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods. Some activities require the physical presence of the supervising faculty member. For many aspects of patient care, the supervising physician may be a more advanced house staff officer. Other portions of care provided by the house staff can be adequately supervised by the immediate availability of the supervising faculty member or house staff officer, either in the institution, or by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities. In some circumstances, supervision may include post-hoc review of house staff-delivered care with feedback as to the appropriateness of that care.

D. To ensure oversight of house staff supervision and graded authority and responsibility, the program must use the following classification of supervision:

1. Direct supervision: the supervising physician is physically present with the house staff officer and patient.
2. Indirect supervision:
 - a) With direct supervision immediately available – the supervising physician is physical within the hospital or other site of patient care, and is immediately available to provide Direct Supervision.
 - b) With direct supervision available – the supervising physician is not physically present within the hospital or other site of patient care, but is immediately available by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities, and is available to provide Direct Supervision.
 - c) Oversight – The supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered.

E. The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence, and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each house staff officer must be assigned by the program director and faculty members.

1. The program director must evaluate each house staff officer’s abilities based on specific criteria. When available, evaluation should be guided by specific national standards-based criteria.
2. Faculty members functioning as supervising physicians should delegate portions of care to house staff, based on the needs of the patient and the skills of the house staff officer.
3. Senior house staff should serve in a supervisory role of junior house staff in recognition of their progress toward independence, based on the needs of each patient and the skills of the individual. The program director must evaluate each house staff officer’s abilities based on each house staff officer.

F. Programs must set guidelines for circumstances and events in which house staff must communicate with appropriate supervising faculty members, such as the transfer of a patient to an intensive care unit, or end-of-life decisions.

1. Each house staff officer must know the limits of his/her scope of authority, and the circumstances under which he/she are permitted to act with conditional independence.

a) In particular, PGY-1 house staff should be supervised either directly or indirectly with direct supervision immediately available. (Each Review Committee will describe the achieved competencies under which PGY-1 house staff progress to be supervised indirectly, with direct supervision available.)

G. Faculty supervision assignments should be of sufficient duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each house staff officer and delegate to him/her the appropriate level of patient care authority and responsibility.

H. The clinical responsibilities for each house staff officer must be based on PGY-level, patient safety, house staff officer education, severity and complexity of patient illness/condition and available support services. (Optimal clinical workload will be further specified by each Review Committee.)

I. House Staff must care for patients in an environment that maximizes effective communication. This must include the opportunity to work as a member of effective interprofessional teams that are appropriate to the delivery of care in the specialty. (Each Review Committee will define the elements that must be present in the specialty.)

J. Transitions of Care:

1. Programs must design clinical assignments to minimize the number of transitions in patient care.

2. Sponsoring institutions and programs must ensure and monitor effective, structured handover processes to facilitate both continuity of care and patient safety.

3. Programs must ensure that house staff officers are competent in communicating with team members in the hand-over process.

4. The sponsoring institution must ensure the availability of schedules that inform all members of the health care team of attending physicians and house staff officers currently responsible for each patient's care.

K. It is the responsibility of each Program Director to establish written policies for supervision in their respective program detailing specific expectations. All program policies must be reviewed and approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee.

V. **Supervision of Procedural Competency:**

A. House Staff officers must be instructed and evaluated in procedural techniques by a licensed independent practitioner (LIP) who is certified as competent to independently perform that procedure or who has been credentialed by MedStar Health to perform that procedure.

B. The Department Chair or Program Director is responsible for assessing procedural competency based on direct observation and/or identifying the number of procedures which must be completed successfully to grant proficiency.

C. The Program Director for each GME program will be responsible for maintaining an updated list of house staff who have been certified as competent to perform procedures independent of direct supervision. This list will be maintained in New Innovations and available to nursing.

D. The Program Director must also develop a method for surveillance of continued competency after it is initially granted.

E. Once the house staff officer has been evaluated as competent to perform a specific procedure or set of procedures by an LIP, s/he may perform that procedure independently *after consultation with the patient's treating physician*. A house staff officer who is determined to be competent in a specific procedure (the senior house staff) may also teach the procedure to another house staff officer (the junior house staff) and provide direct supervision. This direct supervision by the senior house staff does not replace the required, but not necessarily direct, supervision by an LIP.

F. The ability to obtain and document informed consent is an essential component of procedural competency. The supervising LIP must also supervise and attest to the trainee's competence in obtaining and documenting informed consent. Until a trainee is judged competent in obtaining informed consent, s/he may only obtain informed consent while supervised by an individual with credentials in that procedure. It is recommended that a minimum of five observed IC discussions be the criteria for each different procedure.

G. Eligible House Staff may be licensed by the appropriate licensing board. This requirement will be directed at the institutional level.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Work Hour Extension Policy

I. Purpose

To establish a policy for all graduate medical education training programs within MedStar Health to request institutional endorsement for duty hour extension applications to the Residency Review Committees (RRC).

II. Scope

This policy will apply to all ACGME-accredited training programs within MedStar Health.

III. Definitions

House Staff or House Officer – refers to all interns, residents and fellows enrolled in a MedStar Health post-graduate training program.

Graduate Medical Education Training Program – refers to a structured residency or fellowship educational program, accredited by the ACGME, CPME, ADA or other recognized accrediting body, or a non-accredited program which is recognized by its specialty board, for purposes of clinical education.

Work Hours – Defined as work time scheduled for all clinical and academic activities related to the residency program, including, but not limited to patient care (both inpatient and outpatient), administrative duties related to patient care, the provision for transfer of patient care, time spent in-house during call activities, scheduled academic activities such as conferences and moonlighting. Work hours do not include time for a program of self study, e.g., reading and preparation time spent away from the duty site.

WorkHour Extension – refers to the ACGME's exception to the Work Hour Requirement whereby individual residency programs may request up to a 10 % addition to the 80-hour limit, or a maximum of 88 clinical and educational work hours, based on a sound educational rationale. Prior permission of the MedStar GMEC is required.

IV. Responsibilities/Requirements

A. All requests for duty hour extensions must first be reviewed and approved by the local and System Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). In order to be placed on the agenda for the GMEC meeting, the following information must be submitted to the Graduate Medical Education Office (GME Office) at least 2 weeks' prior to the next meeting.

1. Documentation that the program is accredited and in good standing (continued full accreditation or full accreditation) without a warning or a proposed or confirmed adverse action.
2. Information that describes how the program and institution will monitor, evaluate, and ensure patient safety with extended resident work hours.
3. The educational rationale in relation to the program's stated goals and objectives for the particular assignments, rotations, and level(s) of training for which the increase is requested.

4. Specific information regarding the program's moonlighting policies for the periods in question.
5. Specific information regarding the resident call schedules during the times specified for the exception.
6. Evidence of faculty development activities regarding the effects of fatigue and sleep deprivation.

The GMEC will review all of the documentation for educational justification of a duty hour extension. The GMEC will not endorse any extension that is not completely warranted for educational reasons.

B. Procedure: If approved by the GMEC, all of the above information should be sent to the GME Office in addition to:

1. A written statement of institutional endorsement of the requested duty hour extension signed by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO).
2. A copy of this policy.
3. The current accreditation status of the program and of the sponsoring institution.

The Director of Medical Education will forward the request to the respective RRC.

Policy Approved by: System GMEC

Policy Maintained by: MedStar Academic Affairs

Workplace Harassment Prevention

I. Policy Statement

MedStar Health is committed to providing a work environment for all of its associates that is free of harassment, including harassment based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, family obligations, political affiliations, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws and regulations.

II. Philosophy Statement

MedStar Health expects all associates to contribute to a professional and collegial environment by exemplifying the SPIRIT values with our patients, visitors, customers and colleagues.

III. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all associates, medical staff members, residents, vendors, agency staff, contractors, temporary associates, students and any other persons working in MedStar Health's healthcare environment.

IV. Prohibited Behavior

Harassment is defined as unwelcome or unsolicited comments or conduct that targets a person based on his/her race, color, creed, religion, national origin, citizenship, sex, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, marital status, personal appearance, family obligations, political affiliations, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws and regulations, and that is so severe or so pervasive that it interferes with an associate's job performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

All such conduct is unacceptable in the workplace, in any work-related settings - such as business trips and business-related social functions - and when representing MedStar Health, regardless of whether the conduct is engaged in by a leader, co-worker, physician, client, patient, vendor, or other third party.

Some examples of what may be considered harassment, depending on the facts and circumstances, are the following:

- a. *Verbal Harassment:* Derogatory or vulgar comments (including slurs, jokes, insults, epithets, or teasing) regarding any protected characteristic. Verbal harassment also includes threats of physical harm.

- b. *Visual Harassment*: Offensive gestures, posters, symbols, cartoons, drawings, computer displays, e-mails, etc. that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion based on any legally protected basis. Distribution of written or graphic material which relates to these protected characteristics and which could be viewed as offensive, vulgar or derogatory.
- c. *Physical Harassment*: Hitting, pushing or other aggressive physical gestures and contact, inappropriate touching, threats to touch and encroachment of personal space in a confrontational manner may constitute physical harassment.
- d. *Behaviors That Undermine A Culture of Safety and Quality*: Verbal or non-verbal conduct on the basis of any protected characteristic that harms or intimidates others to the extent that entity operations, quality of care or patient safety could be compromised. Demeaning, offensive or degrading conduct on the basis of any protected characteristic. Examples of these behaviors include but are not limited to abusive, loud or intimidating behavior, throwing instruments, charts or other objects, threats of violence or retribution, belittling or berating statements, name calling, use of profanity or disrespectful language, inappropriate comments written in the medical record, failure to respond to patient care needs or staff requests, and degrading or demeaning comments regarding patients, their families; entity personnel and/or the entity.
- e. *Sexual Harassment*: Sexual harassment can include all of the above actions, as well as other unwelcome conduct, such as unwelcome or unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, conversations regarding sexual activities and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex when 1) submission to such conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment; 2) submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment decision; or 3) the conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. This can include threats that are not carried out.

Sexual harassment may also include, but is not limited to, explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, gender-based slurs, sexually oriented or gender-based "kidding" or "teasing," "practical jokes," jokes about gender-specific traits, and improper physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body. Sexual harassment may include verbal or physical conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature engaged in by a person of the same sex as well as of the opposite sex.

V. Procedure

A. Reporting Harassment in the Workplace

All MedStar Health associates are responsible for helping to ensure that workplace harassment is prevented. The most effective way in which this can be accomplished is for an associate who believes that he/she has witnessed harassment, knows of harassment or is being subjected to harassment to promptly notify a leader, Human Resources and/or the Compliance Department. If the associate makes a complaint under this policy and has not received an acknowledgement within five (5) business days, he or she should contact the HR Leader immediately.

B. Compliance Department Hot Lines

Associates who wish to contact the Compliance Department to discuss and/or raise complaints of possible violations of this policy should call the Integrity Hotline at 1-877-811-3411.

C. Internal Investigations

In keeping with its commitment under this policy, MedStar Health will promptly and effectively investigate complaints under this policy upon receipt.

To the extent possible, investigations under this policy will be treated as confidential; however confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, the investigator(s) and those participating in the investigation should take reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of the complaining party, the alleged transgressor, witnesses and other individuals who may assist or otherwise be involved in the investigation.

1. Exceptions

It is important to note that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in such investigations. For example, it may be necessary to reveal the identity of the complaining party and/or witnesses in order for the alleged transgressor to be apprised of the allegations against him/her and to be afforded a fair opportunity to provide a response to the allegations. In such instances, the alleged transgressor, the complaining party and any affected witnesses should be reminded of the company's non-retaliation policy described below.

2. Harassment Complaints

MedStar will investigate all complaints of harassment. Intentionally making false claims or reports of harassment are serious in nature, and will be handled appropriately.

Every leader who learns of any associate's concern about conduct in violation of this policy, whether in a formal complaint or informally, must immediately report the issues raised to their immediate leader and HR Leader.

Upon completion of the investigation, MedStar Health will take corrective measures against any person who has engaged in conduct in violation of this policy, if MedStar Health determines such measures are necessary. These measures may include, but are not limited to, counseling, written warning, suspension, or immediate termination. Anyone, regardless of position or title, whom MedStar Health determines has engaged in conduct that violates this policy will be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination.

D. Non-Retaliation

Associates have a legal right to report and/or assist in investigations of possible violations of this and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity policy. MedStar Health acknowledges, and will take appropriate steps to protect, this legal right. Specifically, it is MedStar Health's policy that an associate who reports and/or assists in the investigation of a possible violation of this policy will not be subjected to retaliation, of any form, on or off workplace premises, by supervisory or non-supervisory personnel.

Retaliation that is prohibited by this policy includes, but is not limited to, the following conduct that occurs as a direct result of an associate's report of and/or assistance in the investigation of a harassment policy violation: explicit or implied threats, verbal or physical, inappropriate comments, acts of intimidation, presence in the associate's work area without business reasons, negative change in working conditions, unwarranted corrective action or unwarranted exclusion from meetings, conferences or other work-related events.

If an associate believes that he/she is being subjected to retaliation as described above, he/she should immediately notify a leader, Human Resources and/or the Compliance Department.

Anyone, regardless of position or title, whom MedStar Health determines has engaged in conduct that violates this policy against retaliation will be subject to corrective action, up to and including termination.

VI. Responsibilities

A. Leaders

1. Adhere to the letter and the spirit of MedStar Health's Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy, and related laws and regulations.
2. Promote compliance with the terms of this policy and be alert to possible policy violations.
3. Foster an environment that reflects MedStar's SPIRIT values and is free from harassment or retaliation.
4. Immediately report to Human Resources any known, perceived, or rumored violations of this policy.
5. Cooperate with any internal investigations that may arise from any known or perceived violations of this policy.

6. Periodically review MedStar Health's Workplace Harassment Prevention Policy with associates and document that such reviews have taken place and reinforce the importance of acting upon any conduct which could be perceived as harassing in nature.

B. Associates, and All Persons Providing Services to MedStar Health

1. Adhere to the letter and the spirit of MedStar Health's Workplace Harassment Prevention policy, and related laws and regulations.
2. Foster an environment that reflects MedStar's SPIRIT values and is free from harassment or retaliation.
3. Inform management and/or Human Resources of situations where actual or potential violations of this policy exist.
4. Cooperate with management and/or Human Resources to ensure compliance with this policy.
5. Cooperate with any internal investigations that may arise from known or perceived violations of this policy.
6. Review and ensure understanding of this policy and present any questions regarding the policy to management and/or Human Resources.

C. Human Resources

1. Assist in ensuring that leaders and associates comply with and understand this policy.
2. Ensure that federal and state government nondiscrimination posters, as well as MedStar Health's Workplace Harassment Prevention and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policies, are displayed permanently in conspicuous locations in all MedStar Health facilities.
3. Ensure MedStar Health's EEO, Harassment Prevention, and Accommodations for Individuals with Special Needs policies are covered in new associate orientation programs.
4. Assist in educating leaders and associates regarding this policy, its requirements and their responsibilities under this policy.
5. Where appropriate, report complaints of known or perceived violations of this policy to the Legal Department.
6. Where appropriate, conduct internal investigations of complaints regarding known or perceived violations of this policy.
7. Serve as MedStar Health's representative to federal and state employment discrimination agencies regarding charges filed by associates, former associates and/or job applicants and, with the assistance of the Legal Department, provide requested information, position statements and the like to appropriate entities to foster resolution of complaints and charges.

Please contact Human Resources with any questions regarding this policy.

Provisions of this policy apply to all associates to the extent they do not conflict with relevant terms of an applicable contract.

Compensation/Benefits Programs

Care.com

Caring for your family while you are at work can often be a challenge. Whether it's after-school care, caring for a child who is home ill or the responsibility for aging parents, sometimes you need additional support, even at a moment's notice. MedStar knows that life can be unpredictable, so to help alleviate life's unexpected challenges, we have added a new benefit to support a productive work-life balance for our residents and fellows. To activate your benefit, go to medstar.care.com and select "Enroll Now" or call 855.781.1303 or email careteam@care.com for assistance. You must enter your MedStar email address to validate your employment.

If you decide to use the backup care benefit, you will be charged a subsidized rate of \$8.00/hour for in-home care and \$15 per child per day at a child care center with a total of 10 days provided to each employee. For assistance with everyday care, the Care.com website / smartphone platform is a wonderful resource that is available to all employees.

Emergency House Staff Loans:

The emergency loan program is available to all house staff for *emergent* personal loans. Loans shall not exceed \$2,500, and will be repaid through automatic payroll deduction (minimum of \$100 per pay period), prior to completion of residency. Any outstanding balance that has not been repaid will be deducted automatically from the last pay check. If the balance due exceeds the monies available in the last pay check, the house officer will be required to pay the balance upon check out. Each house officer will have a maximum of one (1) outstanding loan at any given time.

Employee Assistance Program:

The MedStar Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers a wide array of free counseling assistance to employees, including the house staff. Services include, but are not limited to, professional counseling, child and elder care referrals, financial and legal advice. All information is kept completely confidential. The EAP has several locations throughout the Baltimore and DC metropolitan areas and accommodates evening appointments. They may be reached at 1-866-765-3277.

FMLA

Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) – refers to a United States labor law which provides *eligible* employees with up to twelve (12) work weeks of family and/or medical leave in the applicable twelve (12) month period.

A. FMLA allows a leave of absence to house staff who wish to take time off from work due to one or more of the following:

1. For the birth of and/or to care for a house officer's newborn son or daughter
2. To care for a child who was recently adopted by or recently placed with, via a foster care arrangement, the house officer
3. To care for a family member (child, parent, or spouse) who has a serious health condition
4. For a personal serious health condition or disability (A serious health condition means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility; or continuing treatment by a health care provider.)

5. For “qualifying exigencies” (as defined by applicable law and regulations) that arise out of the employee’s spouse, son, daughter or parent being notified of or on active duty in support of a contingency operation

B. Under FMLA, MedStar provides eligible house staff with up to twelve workweeks of family and/or medical leave in a twelve month period. During FMLA, house staff may utilize paid time off or short-term disability leave to continue to be paid while on a leave of absence. No more than one form of paid leave can run simultaneously with FMLA leave at a given time. Once paid leave is exhausted, the employee will be on unpaid FMLA leave, to the extent that it has not already been exhausted. Health care benefits will continue during FMLA leave (paid or unpaid), provided that house staff continue to pay their required health insurance premiums.

C. House Staff working in Washington, DC are also eligible for coverage under the D.C. Family & Medical Leave Act, which provides up to sixteen weeks of family and/or medical leave in a twenty-four month period.

D. Please contact the MGUH GME HR team at guh-gmeoffice@medstar.net for more information related to FMLA.

Laundry/Call Rooms:

House staff are provided access to on-call quarters as well as scrubs and laundry service for coats. Please contact your individual GME office or department for more details.

Licensure:

House Officers are expected to obtain and maintain appropriate licensure for their state and training program requirements. You will be reimbursed for licensure expenses that are *required* as part of your training. Please see your GME office for further details.

Loan Deferment/Forgiveness:

All applications for loan deferment/forgiveness may be submitted directly to your respective Graduate Medical Education (GME) office. Applications will be completed by GME and forwarded to the appropriate institution.

Meal Allowance:

A meal allowance is provided to house staff officers. Please contact your local GME office for more information.

Physician Concierge:

The Physician Concierge program provides you with personalized care planning, access and navigation to well-being and convenience resources. We are here when you need help with work or life challenges or when you just need to talk with someone. Whether you need emotional, social, physical, financial or career-related support, the Physician Concierge program is here to help.

Through the Physician Concierge program, you may receive confidential and unlimited support from Guide Care Concierges, Master's-level clinicians dedicated to helping you feel your best. Guide Care Concierges have received training on the benefits and resources available to you, so they may seamlessly connect you to what you need.

Your dedicated concierge will identify appropriate support resources, connect you to those you prefer, facilitate scheduling, when applicable, and check in on your progress. Services are available Monday through Friday, 8a.m. – 8p.m. Reach Physician Concierge by calling 800-554-1399, visit www.medstarhealth.org/well-being or via the MedStar ConciergeConnect mobile app. The app can be downloaded in the App Store or Google Play Store.

Smoking:

In keeping with MedStar Health’s intent to provide a safe and healthful environment, smoking is prohibited on all MedStar campuses. This policy applies equally to all employees, patients, and visitors.

Stipends:

House Staff are paid biweekly on every other Friday. Each paycheck will include earnings for all work performed through the end of the previous payroll period. In the event that a regularly scheduled payday falls on a day off such as a holiday, employees will receive pay on the last day of work before the regularly scheduled payday.

Employees are encouraged to have pay directly deposited into their bank accounts. This can be established through the Employee Self-Serve (ESS) feature in PeopleSoft.

The current academic year stipends are below:

PGY-Level	2024-2025 Annual Stipend
PGY-1	\$71,000
PGY-2	\$73,500
PGY-3	\$75,500
PGY-4	\$79,000
PGY-5	\$82,000
PGY-6	\$85,000
PGY-7	\$88,000
PGY-8	\$91,500