

## **BRIEF COMMUNICATION**

### **The Flexibility in duty hour Requirements for Surgical Trainees Trial – “the FIRST trial” ACGME Waiver and Rotator Form Clarification**

The purpose of this brief communication is to clarify any questions in response to the Rotator Form sent to you last week (7/2/2014). This information was developed in conjunction with the ACGME.

Question: How do you handle the waiver for residents who rotate on other services (i.e. transplant, cardiac & thoracic surgery etc.). In other words, who is covered by the duty-hours waiver?

Answer: If the resident "belongs" to the general surgery program for the year (i.e., is registered with the ACGME as a resident in that program), then their waiver follows them to all of their rotations. If the resident is not registered in the general surgery program, the waiver applies only on general surgery rotations.

*General surgery rotations are those listed as an essential content area on pages 16 & 17 of the [general surgery program requirements manual](#).* The manual reads:

*“The essential content areas are: the abdomen and its contents; the alimentary tract; skin, soft tissues, and breast; endocrine surgery; head and neck surgery; pediatric surgery; surgical critical care; surgical oncology; trauma and non-operative trauma (burn experience that includes patient management may be counted toward non-operative trauma); and the vascular system.”*

Example: Some Urology programs register their interns with a general surgery residency program for their preliminary year. Since those residents are registered with the ACGME as first year general surgery residents, the waiver applies to them on all rotations.

Example: An integrated vascular resident may spend several months during the PGY-1 year on general surgery services. Those residents are not registered with the ACGME as being in the general surgery program. That resident would be covered by the waiver only during their general surgery services and would not be covered by the waiver on an ER rotation, cardiology, radiology, etc.

Below are additional examples of who is or is not covered by the ACGME waiver.

<b>Rotation Example</b>	<b>Covered/Not Covered</b>
Categorical General Surgery Resident on Vascular, Transplant or Cardiac	Covered
Prelim (Urology) subspecialty resident on Transplant	Covered
PGY3 Urology resident on Transplant	NOT Covered
Integrated Vascular resident on General Surgery Service (colorectal)	Covered
Integrated Vascular resident on Transplant	NOT Covered

Question: How do you handle the waiver for residency programs from outside of your institution that send their residents to rotate on services within your general surgery residency program? Are these residents covered by the waiver?

Answer: The same rules apply here as above. If the residents rotate to your general surgery rotations (those listed as an essential content area in the general surgery program requirements), then they are covered by the waiver.

Example: Individuals from a local community hospital without an ACGME accredited trauma rotation rotate to your hospital's general surgery residency program. The waiver applies to them on all rotations on general surgery services.

More information available at [www.TheFirstTrial.org](http://www.TheFirstTrial.org)

If you have any questions, please contact us ([adahlke@nmff.org](mailto:adahlke@nmff.org)) or John Potts, M.D at the ACGME ([jpotts@acgme.org](mailto:jpotts@acgme.org)).