

Institutional GME Disaster Policy

The definition of a disaster for GME purposes will be determined by the ACGME as defined in their published policies and procedures. Following declaration of a disaster, the hospital/Partners and institutional GME leadership will take appropriate steps to maintain, restructure or reconstitute elsewhere the educational experience of GME trainees. Planning in this regard will involve the education committees, to the extent allowed by specific circumstances.

If the disaster involves acute clinical needs, then immediate attention will be focused on care of patients and safety of patients and personnel.

As soon as possible after declaration of a disaster, the sponsoring institution will assess its ability to continue to provide an adequate education experience for its residents. This may require temporary or permanent restructuring of training, and/or reduction or discontinuation of some or all training programs. The Director of GME will communicate institutional decisions as quickly as possible to the GMEC, program directors and trainees, and will serve as the primary institutional contact with the ACGME regarding the issues addressed in this policy.

Any necessary restructuring of GME will seek to maintain full compliance with accreditation requirements and minimize any loss of training time, in order to maximize the likelihood that trainees will complete certification requirements within the originally anticipated time frame.

If it is determined that adequate education cannot be provided in one or more programs on a temporary basis, institutional leadership will seek to arrange for temporary transfer of the residents to other accredited programs. To the extent possible the institution will provide:

- Assistance in identifying programs willing to accept trainees;
- Transfer of information and documentation to support the transfer and the credentialing process;
- Continuation of salary for the period of temporary transfer;
- An estimate of the necessary duration of relocation.

If it is determined that prolonged or permanent reduction or closure of training programs is necessary, the institution will seek to arrange for permanent transfer of residents to other accredited programs. To the extent possible the institution will provide:

- Assistance in identifying programs willing to accept trainees;
- Transfer of information and documentation to support the transfer and the credentialing process;
- Continuation of salary to support a period of transition and/or to facilitate transfer to another program that may have educational resources but lacks funding for additional GME positions.

Approved by the Partners Education Committee 11/16/07

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