

Partners Graduate Medical Education Transportation Safety Program

Partners HealthCare is committed to promoting safe travel to and from work. In light of the demanding schedules and extended shifts that residents and fellows often work, Brigham and Women's, Mass General, Spaulding, McLean, and Newton-Wellesley hospitals offer transportation funds (such as cab vouchers, UBER/LYFT, etc) to support trainee safety in special circumstances – notably in cases when driving may be hazardous because of extreme fatigue. Because of its location, North Shore Medical Center provides call rooms for fatigued residents to get sufficient rest before driving in lieu of providing funding for alternative transportation. Note: Call rooms are available at each of the hospitals and *trainees are encouraged to nap in the call rooms in order to avoid commuting when significantly fatigued, regardless of their means of transit.*

Eligibility for transportation funds extends to:

- 1) Residents and fellows in Partners GME programs
- 2) Residents and fellows rotating at BWH or MGH from other institutions who are given a Partners ID, including trainees from BIDMC and Children's Hospital.

Criteria:

Trainees who normally DRIVE to the hospital may consider using alternative forms of transportation, and are eligible for reimbursement with program transportation funds if:

- They have worked 24-hours or longer, and they feel fatigued and are concerned about falling asleep,
or
- They feel too fatigued to drive and are concerned about falling asleep, regardless of the length of the shift worked,
or
- They fall acutely ill and cannot safely drive home or take public transportation.

If transportation funds have been used to go home, trainees should exercise personal responsibility in returning to work or retrieving their car. If other alternatives for returning to work are not possible, transportation funds may be used.

Additional notes:

- As noted above, when possible for a trainee to sleep in the hospital prior to going home, hospital sleep rooms can be used for that purpose at any time of day or night.
- Transportation funds are not meant to subsidize routine travel to and from scheduled work shifts, regardless of the timing of the shift.
- Trainees with specific safety concerns walking from the hospital to public transportation or to the garage should call Police and Security for an escort. BWH: (617) 732-6001, MGH (617) 726-2121.
- **Trainees from Partners programs who are on rotations at BIDMC or Children's** should receive vouchers/reimbursement *from the program to which they are rotating*, as this is a reciprocal program.

Process:

This program is managed at the individual GME program level. The Program Director is responsible for determining and communicating additional details, such as the mechanism for providing reimbursement, whether specific transportation companies must be utilized, etc.

While we strongly encourage you to make appropriate use of this program, we also suggest the use of public transportation whenever possible in order to support the program's financial sustainability.