

SECTION 3.A.

General Guiding Principles

The University of Connecticut School of Medicine's Graduate Medical Education Programs are designed to meet all external and internal requirements for a GME program. The initial letter of agreement (contract) sent to all new residents/fellows sets forth the general guiding principles for the School of Medicine, the program, and the resident/fellow. Additionally:

1. The University of Connecticut School of Medicine is committed to providing an appropriate educational and work environment for all residents and fellows. The School of Medicine and its sponsored GME programs do this in the following ways.
 - a. The Resident Forum is an organization for residents and fellows in all programs. The members are selected by their peers. All programs are invited to send one or more representatives to the Forum, which meets at least four times a year. Program Directors are informed about the meetings so that residents/fellows may be released from other responsibilities. The resident representatives select someone to chair and convene the meetings. Representatives from the GME office and the Consortium usually spend 15-20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting with the Forum members so that administrative questions can be answered. The group then meets on its own to discuss issues that cross disciplines and sites. The Forum has historically been key in providing information useful in improving the quality of life for all residents
 - b. A hotline has been established for all residents and fellows to use to report duty hour violations, sexual harassment, bias or discrimination. Residents/fellows are given the phone number for the hotline when they start their program and it is published on-line in the residents' Housestaff Policy Manual. This hotline is confidential and all follow-up is done with the caller's identity protected, if requested.
2. The University of Connecticut School of Medicine's GME programs are designed to ensure that the residents'/fellows' work is relevant to the educational goals and objectives of their program. Data is collected from the internal review, the ACGME resident surveys, from information provided by the Resident Forum, and from the Exit Surveys, about the following:
 - a. Appropriate patient support services such as IV placement, phlebotomy, laboratory and transport services.
 - b. Availability of laboratory, pathology and radiology services.
 - c. Timely availability of adequate medical records at all sites.

The GMEC Operations Subcommittee is charged with making recommendations to GMEC about addressing problems that are identified in these areas when it is more than program-specific.

3. The University of Connecticut School of Medicine is committed to ensuring that all of its sponsored GME programs provide a healthy and safe work environment. All sites have 24-hour access to food services, appropriate sleeping quarters that are safe, quiet, private and convenient, safe and secure parking, and places to store personal belongings. Concerns or problems with any of these areas are identified via internal reviews, resident surveys, the Resident Forum and Exit Surveys. The GMEC Operations Subcommittee makes recommendations to GMEC regarding problems that cross disciplines and/or sites and the Program Review Subcommittee recommends solutions to GMEC for program-specific concerns.