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<b><u>Subject:</u></b>	Clinical Responsibilities, Teamwork, and Transitions of Care
<b><u>References:</u></b>	Clinical Learning and Working Environment policy Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education CPR.VI.

### **Clinical Responsibilities**

The Orthopaedic Surgery program has developed curriculum and rotation assignments to ensure the clinical responsibilities of each resident are based on the physical status of the patient, the PGY level and experience of the resident, patient safety, severity and complexity of patient illness/condition, and available support services. Resident capabilities are monitored on a regular basis through direct observation by faculty to ensure residents are working within their experience and documented ability.

### **Teamwork**

Orthopaedic Surgery residents will care for patients in an environment that maximizes effective communication. The program provides the opportunity for residents to work as a member of interprofessional teams appropriate to orthopaedic surgery or the service to which a resident is assigned. Residents will work effectively on a regular basis with social work, case management, nursing staff, operating room staff and physical medicine and rehabilitation service teams.

### **Transitions of Care**

The Program Director has designed clinical assignments to minimize the number of transitions in patient care. The Orthopaedic Surgery department recognizes 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. The patient care transition or hand-off is defined as the transfer of professional responsibility and accountability from some or all aspects of patient care or a group of patients from one physician or patient care team to another physician or patient care team. The Orthopaedic Surgery Department will:

- Design clinical assignments to minimize the number of transitions in patient care.
- Provide instruction to residents and faculty about the hand-off process and its importance so that residents master the transfer of information.
- Monitor hand-offs on a regular basis to ensure that residents are competent in communicating with other team members so that errors are reduced and the continuity of care is seamless.
- Make schedules available that inform all members of the health care team of the attending physician and residents responsible for each patient's care.
- Transfer/hand off from the outgoing night call resident to the incoming day call resident through a morning conference. This conference must be directly overseen by the senior resident and indirectly by the attending physician.
- Transfer/hand off from the outgoing day call resident to the incoming night call resident every evening in Junior Residents' Office.
- For the purpose of evaluation of residents' ability to adequately and effectively facilitate the transition of care of the patient, a faculty physician will be periodically available to moderate the hand-off/transition of care.
- All residents will be educated about transitions of care through the Introduction of Medicine modules on Patient Handoff and the RUHS on-line course Professional Communications with SBAR.