

On Call Policy

NIGHT AND WEEKEND CALL

Evening, night, and weekend call may be a required part of Dalhousie clerkship rotations. Decisions about the type of call to be required (in-house vs. home call) as well as the hours and frequency of call will be made by the individual Clerkship Director in consultation with their faculty and may differ among rotations and sites.

Clerks will not be asked to be on-call more frequently than 7 nights out of any 28-day period. The maximum period of time for in-house call will be 25 hours (24 hours plus a maximum of 1 hour for sign-over). Clerks who have been on call in-house will be Dismissed at the end of 25 hours and are not required to attend clinics or teaching sessions on that day.

Clerks who take call from home must be able to return to the hospital within 20 minutes. Clerks taking call from home will not typically be excused from responsibilities the day after call. However, if the clerk has been called into the hospital between midnight and 6 a.m. or has been called repeatedly during that time period resulting in major disruption of sleep, he/she will be excused following morning sign-over (typically by 9 a.m.). In such situations the clerk must ensure that the relevant attending staff and clinical service are aware of his/her post-call status.

Clerks will not be on-call on the final night of a rotation. During exam time please refer to the Clerkship Manual (p. 11) Policy Regarding *Release of Clerks from Service Prior to Examination Days*. This policy can be found at <http://undergraduate.medicine.dal.ca/policies.htm>

Reviewed by Curriculum Committee; December, 2009