

Service Duties:

Each day there is one fellow on call, for consults, the CCU, and for emergency echocardiograms and cardiac catheterizations. We have a tiered call system. For July and August, first year fellows will have a second or third year fellow assigned as back up. After this time, there is no formal back up, but the senior fellows will insure that someone will always be available for assistance. (The 467-5555 pager serves as the on call beeper; there is a cellular phone in the fellowship office that is also for the on-call fellow.)

A.) Responsibilities - The on-call fellow collects the “Cardiology” pager at 5 PM. All calls for consults and emergent echoes are routed through this pager. In addition, the answering service (476-5522) will direct all calls from UHCC Cardiology patients to the on-call fellow. Call lasts until 7 - 7:30 AM the next morning. Weekend call starts Friday at 5 PM and ends Monday morning at 7 AM. The weekend fellow also rounds in the CCU on Sunday to insure patients are seen. Call is taken from home; this is a privilege. If there is any question about the patient, the presentation, the capabilities of the house staff, etc., come in and see the patient.

The consult pager should always be passed from fellow to fellow. It should never be given to a resident, left in a mailbox, etc.

Upon completing at-home night call, the following day the fellow will email the Cardiology Fellowship Coordinator the following information:

Time Arrived at Hospital:

Facility called to (VA or UH):

Reason for being called in (ie. Echo, consult etc):

What services you performed (echo, consult, cath, TEE, etc):

What Time Left Hospital:

This email is then printed and cataloged in a binder for weekly review and evaluation of the 80 hour per week policy. If any fellows are nearing the 80th hour, their attending assigned to the rotation they are currently on will be notified and the schedule will be revised.

Any fellow nearing 80 hours or if a fellow is feeling fatigued will be pulled from their rotation. A fellow on a nonclinical rotation is pulled from their scheduled rotation to relieve call fellow from their clinical duties for 10 hours of rest time.

If fellows are called in after midnight they are to notify the Fellowship Program Coordinator and they are not to report that day for their scheduled rotation. The attending on their day rotation will be notified and coverage will be arranged per availability of other fellows on nonclinical rotations.

B.) The senior fellows make the call schedule for the month - Usually, requests for days to not be on-call are asked for in the middle of the preceding month. All efforts will be made to accommodate everyone.

C.) Days of call - The tiered schedule decreases call days with seniority. Based on 9 total fellows, first year fellows begin by taking six days a month including one weekend. This is for July and August because of the need for two people to be on-call these days. Starting in September this changes to five days a month, including a weekend each month. Second year fellows will do between 3 and 4 days a month, which includes several weekends during the year. Third year fellows will do the back up during July and August, then will cover the remaining days each month. In addition, as mentioned above, at least one senior fellow will be available for emergency back up and questions throughout the year. Fellows are on call approximately 5 or 6 days in a month.

D.) Holidays - Each fellow will cover one “major” holiday during the year. Most, but not all, involve a weekend. Below is a list of these holidays. If a conflict arises, holidays will be assigned on a seniority basis.

Duty Hours: Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week. Fellows are provided with 1 day in 7 free from all educational and clinical responsibilities. Adequate time for rest and personal activities is provided, consisting of a 10-hour time period provided between all daily duty periods and after in-house call.

Clinics - Each fellow has a primary clinic each week. You will have your own population of patients that you will follow routinely. Your clinic site alternates between UHCC Cardiology (Upstate Medical University Hospital) and The Veteran's Administration Medical Center each week. Also included with this packet is your preliminary schedule. There is the capability to dictate office notes for patients at UHCC Cardiology; we will orient you to this system. Each fellow is responsible for changing or canceling clinic during times of absence.