

**Policy Limiting Number of Patients under the Care
of Residents on the In-Patient Medical Service**

Revised October 2006

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the maximum number of patients for whom a resident will be responsible for the ongoing care.

B. Application

This policy applies to all of the residency program's teaching services. This includes the Sanford Health Internal Medicine Teaching Service (IMTS), the Sanford Health Cardiology Teaching Service (CTS), and the Sanford Health Critical Care Medicine Teaching Service (CCMTS). The program does not currently have any inpatient teaching services at other sites.

C. Background

1. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) states: "A first-year resident must not be responsible for the ongoing care of more than 12 patients." "When supervising one first-year resident, the supervising resident must not be responsible for the ongoing care of more than 16 patients. When supervising more than one first-year resident, the supervising resident must not be responsible for ongoing care of more than 24 patients."
2. This is defined under Sections V-F-2-a-(3), (6), and (7) of the ACGME Program Requirements for Residency Education in Internal Medicine (editorial revisions July 1, 2004).

D. Policy

1. On the Sanford Health IMTS and CTS, a first-year resident must not be responsible for the ongoing care of more than ten (10) patients.
2. On the Sanford Health IMTS and CTS, the supervising (second- or third-year) resident must not be responsible for the ongoing care (direct or supervisory) of more than 24 patients, or for more than 20 patients for more than one day.
3. On the Sanford Health CCMTS, a first-year resident must not be responsible for the ongoing care of more than three (3) patients.
4. On the Sanford Health CCMTS, a second-year or third-year resident will not be responsible for the ongoing care (direct or supervisory) of more than three (12) patients.
5. Re-distribution of patients to avoid exceeding these limits will be the responsibility of the Sanford Health Medical House Officer (MHO) when on duty, the internal medicine and critical care medicine attending physicians when the MHO is off duty, the Program Director, or other Key Faculty designated by the Program Director.