



Stony Brook Medicine Graduate Medical Education

Subject: GME0008 Response to Hospital Closure	Published Date: 04/30/2025
Graduate Medical Education	Next Review Date: 04/30/2028
Scope: SBM Stony Brook Campus	Original Creation Date: 03/31/2008

Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.

Responsible Department/Division/Committee:

Graduate Medical Education Committee

Policy:

This policy addresses the administrative support for Graduate Medical Education programs and residents and fellows in the event of a disaster or interruption in patient care, such as closure of a program or hospital. This includes minimizing the impact of such a situation on the educational experience of the residents/fellows, protecting the well-being and safety of the residents/fellows, and making provisions for continuation of the educational experience and resident/fellow assignment.

Definitions:

None

Procedures:

In the event of a disaster, which may be determined by Federal, State and/or local governments and defined by ACGME where the training of residents/fellows is interrupted for a significant time, the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) working with the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and other sponsoring institution leadership at Stony Brook Medicine strives to restructure or reconstitute the educational experience as quickly as reasonably possible following the disaster. The DIO is the primary institutional contact and maintains communication among house staff, program directors, hospital administration, the Accreditation Council for

Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This may be accomplished through emergency meetings, telephone, electronic mail, videoconferencing and/or facsimile.

In order to maximize the likelihood that residents/fellows are able to complete the program requirements within the standard time required for certification in that specialty, the GMEC and DIO make the determination if transfer to another program is necessary on either a temporary or permanent basis consistent with ACGME policies and procedures and CMS ruling relevant to the relocation and funding of residents affected by the disaster.

Should the GMEC and DIO determine that the sponsoring institution can no longer provide an adequate educational experience for its residents/fellows, SBM attempts to arrange for the temporary transfer of residents/fellows to programs at other sponsoring institutions until such time as SBM is able to resume the training experience. Residents/fellows who transfer to other programs as a result of a disaster are provided by the DIO with the estimated time that relocation to another program is necessary. Should that initial time estimate need to be extended, the resident/fellow is notified by the DIO using written or electronic means identifying the estimated time of the extension.

If the disaster prevents the sponsoring institution from re-establishing an adequate educational experience within a reasonable amount of time following the disaster, then permanent transfers are arranged to the extent reasonably possible.

In the event of bankruptcy, notice by the training hospital, intending to file for bankruptcy within 30 days, to all residents and fellows primarily associated with the training hospital, as well as those contractually matched at that training institution who may not yet have matriculated, of its intention to close.

In the event of a disaster affecting other sponsoring institutions of GME programs, the DIO and GMEC coordinate on behalf of SBM their ability to accept transfer residents from the affected institutions. This includes requesting complement increases with ACGME, CODA, or CPME that may be required to accommodate additional residents.

Relocation & Funding:

Continuation of financial support in the event of a disaster / closure is dependent upon the short and long-term impact on each program and the overall institute.

SBU works to provide reasonable and appropriate procedures to assist current and matched residents and fellows to find and obtain alternative training positions that minimize undue financial and professional consequences, including but not limited to maintenance of specialty choice, length of training, initial expected time of graduation, location and reallocation of funding / salary, continued benefits and coverage medical malpractice liability insurance that would have been offered had the program or hospital not closed.

When the emergency situation has ended, plans are made with the participating institutions to which residents have been transferred for them to resume training at SBU. Appropriate credit for training is coordinated with ACGME and the applicable review committees.

SBU works with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the ECFMG to assist transitioning residents with requirements and grace periods for J-1 visa-holding residents.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) assistance is requested, if appropriate.

If the program is not permanently closed, but the resident decides to permanently transfer to another institution, the costs of salary and benefits are the responsibility of the accepting institution effective from the date of transfer

Forms: (Ctrl-Click form name to view)

None

Policy Cross Reference: (Ctrl-Click policy name to view)

None

Relevant Standards/Codes/Rules/Regulations/Statutes:

ACGME Institutional Requirements – IV.M.

References and Resources:

None