



**THE GEORGE  
WASHINGTON  
UNIVERSITY**  
WASHINGTON, DC

Responsible University Official: Associate Dean for Graduate  
Medical Education, DIO  
Responsible Office: SMHS Office of GME  
Most recent revision: April 15, 2019

## **POLICY ON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR GME PROGRAMS IN THE EVENT OF DISASTER OR INTERRUPTION OF PATIENT CARE**

### **Policy Statement**

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The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences (GWU SMHS), as the sponsoring institution, is committed to assisting in reconstituting and restructuring residents' educational experiences as quickly as possible in the event of disaster or any major interruption in patient care services that would impact training. In the event of a local or national disaster or public health emergency, the GWU SMHS will continue to provide financial and administrative support for its GME programs through the disaster.

### **Who Needs to Know This Policy**

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All Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited residency and fellowship programs sponsored by the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS)

### **Policy Contact**

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Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, DIO

### **Who Approved This Policy**

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Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC)

### **History/Revision Dates**

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Approved by GMEC: May 19, 2008  
Revised and approved by GMEC: April 15, 2019

## **Definition**

A “disaster” is defined as an event or set of events causing significant alteration to the residency experience at The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

## **Policy**

If GWU SMHS, as sponsor of the ACGME-accredited programs, determines in consultation with the leadership of the GW Hospital, the GWU-Medical Faculty Associates and affiliate institutions that it cannot provide an adequate educational experience for its residents because of a disaster, it will take the following actions:

1. Provide written notice to all residents in the event of an interruption in training via postal mail and/or electronic mail. If US Postal service and/or internet service is interrupted in the metropolitan Washington, DC area, a general notice will be posted at the GW Hospital, Ross Hall and the MFA Ambulatory Care Center.
2. Arrange temporary transfer of the residents to other programs and institutions until such time as the GW sponsored program can provide adequate experience *or* facilitate permanent transfers to other programs/institutions as indicated. Individual programs and the institution will make the keep/transfer decision expeditiously, so as to maximize the likelihood that each resident will complete the resident year in a timely manner.

If more than one program is available for a temporary or permanent transfer of a particular resident, the transfer preferences of the resident will be considered by the GWU SMHS.

3. Inform each transferred resident of the minimum duration of his/her temporary transfer, and continue to keep each resident informed of the minimum duration. If and when a program decides that a temporary transfer will continue to and/or through the end of a residency year, it must so inform each such transferred resident.
4. The University, MFA and Hospital will work together to identify other needed support as appropriate.

## **Communication with ACGME**

The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) will notify the ACGME Executive Director and, if appropriate, request a declaration of disaster. The ACGME will post the notice on its website [www.acgme.org](http://www.acgme.org).

Within ten days after the declaration of disaster by ACGME, the DIO of GWU SMHS or his/her designee will contact ACGME to discuss revised due dates that ACGME will establish for the affected programs’ submission of the program(s) reconfigurations necessary because of the disaster and notifications to the affected programs’ residents of the resident transfer decisions.

All information will be submitted no later than 30 days after the disaster unless other due dates are approved by the ACGME.