SUBJECT: Resident Participation in Root Cause Analyses (RCA)

INTENT: The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Institutional Requirements / Program Requirements / Common Program Requirements requires resident participation in quality improvement and patient safety education and activities. This policy provides guidelines to training programs and program directors for resident and fellow participation in root cause analyses involving their patients.

POLICY STATEMENT: Regardless of location (inpatient, outpatient, doctors’ offices, laboratories, etc), residents and fellows in programs sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine shall participate in root cause analyses for significant safety events occurring with any patient for whom they had clinical responsibility along the continuum of care.

DESCRIPTION: Patient safety and quality improvement are important parts of any resident’s or fellow’s education. When a patient experiences a significant safety event, all housestaff involved in the patient’s immediate or long-term care must be involved in a multidisciplinary RCA of the issues that led to the event.

1. Such analyses should occur as near as possible to the time of the event.

2. To facilitate housestaff attendance at the RCA, every attempt will be made to hold the RCA during normal working hours. If the event occurred after normal working hours, every attempt will be made to conduct the RCA at a time that would allow housestaff to attend without violating established ACGME duty hours / regulations. However, if it is determined that a RCA must be held at a time that would cause a duty hour violation for any involved housestaff, residents or fellows should attend if at all possible, and the reason for duty hour violation noted in the New Innovations duty hours log.

In order to facilitate housestaff participation, the UF Health Shands quality and safety personnel should notify the Associate Dean for GME at 352-265-0152, the involved attending physician, and the involved residency program director(s) about the RCA issue and the housestaff who need to be involved. The GME office shall notify the appropriate program coordinator to help facilitate housestaff involvement. Program directors should, if reasonably possible,
adjust residents’ and fellows’ clinical responsibilities and assignments to allow them to attend the RCA and follow-up meetings.

If the adverse or sentinel event occurred at the North Florida/South Georgia VHS or any of its associated offices / clinics, conduct of the RCA, timing of the RCA and involvement of housestaff will be governed by established VA Policy.

Last Reviewed and Approved: Graduate Medical Education Committee
February 12, 2015