SUBJECT: Handoff – Transition of Care Policy

INTENT: The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Institutional Requirements/Program Requirements/Common Program Requirements require that each program has a system for effective transitions of care that provides for maximal patient safety. This policy provides guidelines to training programs and program directors regarding transitions of patient care from one provider to another.

POLICY STATEMENT: Regardless of location (inpatient, outpatient, doctors’ offices, laboratories, etc.), residency and fellowship programs sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine must have in place specific processes for handover of patient care in all relevant scenarios (night / weekend coverage, rotating off-service, vacation coverage, between services, and locations (OR→ICU), etc).

DESCRIPTION: All residency and fellowship programs sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine must have a written policy for transitions in care, either temporary (call coverage, weekend coverage, vacation) or permanent (rotating off-service, graduation), that assures the highest quality continuity of care and patient safety. All programs must have in place a documented education program that will assure that all housestaff are adequately trained in handoff procedures. In addition, all training programs must document that each housestaff member can provide effective handoff of care. To facilitate effective handoff, the institution suggests the use of either I-Pass or SBAR tools. Information regarding these tools may be found:

SBAR: http://www.saferhealthcare.com/sbar/what-is-sbar/
I-Pass: http://www.ipasshandoffstudy.com/

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