NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENCY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Float Rotation Policy

Revised July 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of the float rotation is to help alleviate gaps in service coverage in the event of changes to the traditional rotation complement.

PERSONS INVOLVED

Categorical & Preliminary General Surgery Residents

SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

- Float residents may be asked to cover services where residents are off service due to vacation, illness, interviews, or other unforeseen changes to traditional service line coverage of patients.
- A good faith effort will be made to utilize float residents for coverage for level-appropriate cases, but occasionally you may be asked to assist with non-level appropriate case coverage if necessary.
- In the event that multiple services require additional coverage at the same time, service coverage will be designated by the administrative chief residents based on the specific needs of each team.
- PGY2 float residents will be expected to cover Purple Surg clinic and OR.
- Senior resident coverage of service lines may include responsibilities such as:
 - a. Assuming primary management or assisting with co-primary management of services
 - b. Assisting with rounding responsibilities
 - c. Covering cases as the primary or assisting resident

AVAILABILITY

- We ask the float resident for flexibility in coverage as requests as illnesses or other personal issues can come abruptly. The
 prioritization of service coverage may change based on the specific needs of each service and will be made at the discretion
 of the administrative chief residents.
- It is possible that you may be called on the day of a rotation M-F based on changing circumstances throughout a given workday. If called in, you will be expected to report within two hours on M-F 6am-6pm.
- Vacations will be allowed while on the float rotation. Float residents may also schedule fellowship interviews on the float rotation and will not be expected to provide coverage when scheduled for an interview.
- Weekend/Nights policy: In the event that weekend or night float residents are out for illness, interview or other reason, we may reach out on a case-by-case basis for assistance with coverage.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

- Due to the fragmented nature of the float rotation, consistency of performance evaluation is not able to be provided. Therefore, EPAs will be the primary measure of performance while on the float rotation.
- Residents will be expected to initiate at least 1 EPA per day when covering for a clinical service.
- If there are no coverage requirements for a given week, no EPA is expected for that week.

EDUCATION

- If you have not already done so and your clinical responsibilities allow, you will be expected to complete FLS/FES and robotic curriculum/certification while on float.
- In addition, you will be asked to assist with medical student education and workshops during this time on days when you do not have other clinical responsibilities.

Leading up to your float rotation you will receive an email from the administrative chief residents/coordinators with your coverage plan for the block. Service needs may deviate from this original plan as interviews or unexpected events arise. We will address these needs as they arise between the float resident, service chiefs, and administrative chief residents through early communication.

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