

Disaster Triggered Educational Response

Effective: July 1, 2018
Reviewed by GMEC: February 13, 2018
Initial Approval by GMEC: February 17, 2009

Statement

In the event of a catastrophic disaster which significantly alters the residency experience at one or more residency programs, Palmetto Health will provide administrative support for continuation of resident/fellow training.

Associated Policy(ies)

PH Ambulatory Care Centers: Disaster Procedure PGR
PH Emergency Operations Plan Policy
PH Human Resources Emergency and Disaster Staffing Plan Policy and PGR

Responsible Positions (Title)

Residents and Fellows
Program Director
DIO
HR Business Partner

Equipment Needed

None

Procedure Steps, Guidelines, Rules, or Reference

1. If a disaster seriously degrades the ability of Palmetto Health to carry out its mission (high quality patient care, education and research), the resident/fellow physicians and faculty will perform all duties as outlined in the comprehensive Palmetto Health disaster plan until the acute case of the disaster is over.
2. As soon as possible, a determination will be made by leadership as to whether the individual residency programs will be able to provide an adequate educational experience that will assure residents can complete their program requirements within the standard time required for certifications. Within ten days after the declaration of a disaster, the DIO will contact ACGME to discuss due dates that ACGME will establish for the programs, to include program reconfigurations. The DIO will communicate the institutional decisions as quickly as possible to the GMEC, program directors and residents, and will serve as the primary institutional contact with the ACGME regarding the issues addressed in this policy. ACGME will provide phone numbers and email addresses for emergency and other communications on its website for DIO's, program directors and residents/fellows. Palmetto Health will also provide appropriate information for residents on its website, as available.
3. If the DIO and GMEC determine that the sponsoring Institution can no longer provide an adequate educational experience for its residents, the sponsoring Institution will, to the best of its ability, arrange for the temporary transfer of the residents to programs at other sponsoring institutions until such time as Palmetto Health is able to resume providing the experience.

Residents who transfer to other programs as a result of a disaster will be provided by their Program Directors with an estimated time that relocation to another program will be necessary. Should that initial time estimate need to be extended, the residents/fellows will be notified by their Program Directors using written or electronic means identifying the estimated time of the extension. Palmetto Health will provide information concerning continuation of salary, benefits, and assignments during this period of interruption.

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 will be arranged. The DIO will be responsible for coordinating the transfers with ACGME. Palmetto Health will provide information concerning continuation of salary, benefits, and assignments during this period of interruption.

4. If a disaster affects other teaching institutions, Palmetto Health will do all it can do to accept residents from the program and provide a sound training environment.
5. Each program will be responsible for establishing procedures to protect the academic and personnel files of all residents from loss or destruction by disaster. All electronic files will have off site backup.

References

ACGME Institutional Requirements, IV.M.