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MOONLIGHTING & RESTRICTED REGISTRATION POLICY

Preamble:

“Moonlighting” refers to clinical activities performed outside the requirements of the training program, usually (but not exclusively) by physicians who hold an independent practice certificate while still in training. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario medical schools have also acknowledged that moonlighting may be performed without an independent practice license through Restricted Registration (see Restricted Registration below).

Definitions:

Resident: trainee registered in postgraduate medical education program leading to examination / certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) or the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).

Clinical Fellow: trainee registered in postgraduate medical education program NOT leading to examination / certification, i.e. post-certification training. The trainee is considered a specialist, having met the training requirements from his / her country.

For the purposes of this document Residents and Clinical Fellows are referred to as “Postgraduate Trainees”.

Scope:

All postgraduate learners, Residents and Clinical Fellows, registered with the Postgraduate Medical Education Office.

Policy Statement:

Postgraduate Medical Education at McMaster strongly feels that this activity must not interfere with the training program as the resident / clinical fellow is foremost a learner and has primary responsibility to his / her educational program. PGME wishes to maintain an environment in which there is:

1. a positive balance between education and service
2. a strong academic focus in our training programs

3. absence of confusion regarding the Postgraduate Trainee's role in the clinical setting
4. an atmosphere conducive for Postgraduate Trainees and program directors to discuss performance and professionalism if altered by activities outside the training program.

Moonlighting:

Postgraduate Medical Education at McMaster feels that moonlighting activities should be discussed between Program Directors and Postgraduate trainees. Program directors recognize that they cannot forbid Postgraduate Trainees with independent practice licenses from moonlighting. Postgraduate Trainees are responsible for ensuring they have followed the necessary processes to obtain an independent practice license and must comply with appropriate hospital credentialing processes that are distinct from the Postgraduate Trainee process.

Furthermore, Postgraduate Trainees accept that any clinical activities performed as independent practitioners are separate from their academic activities. This includes access to postgraduate resources and support should they have correspondence with CPSO or the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) as a result of their independent clinical practice activities. Postgraduate Trainees and program directors are encouraged to discuss performance changes in a respectful atmosphere, with a willingness to discuss the effect of activities outside the training program, including moonlighting. Any ongoing issues or concerns arising from moonlighting activities that affect the Postgraduate Trainee's performance on the rotation will be addressed through usual postgraduate processes.

Restricted Registration as applicable to Residents:

Moonlighting by a Resident who does not yet have an independent license to practice has been more recently called "restricted registration for residents". "Restricted Registration" is a certificate—subject to annual renewal—offered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) to Residents who meet agreed on criteria. As part of this process, residents must receive permission from the program director and the Postgraduate Dean to obtain this certification. The program director can rescind permission for restricted registration at the time of annual renewal with appropriate justification.

For details, please refer to the website: <http://www.rrapp.ca/>