

Postgraduate Education Committee of COFM

Principles of Cross Coverage and Multi-Site Coverage

Approved
Revised March 14, 2010

Definitions

Cross-coverage is defined as taking “call” for a service outside of the resident’s current assigned/designated educational rotation.

Multi-site coverage is defined as taking “call” for a service over multiple sites, and potentially city/community-wide.

Background

Cross coverage and multi-site coverage may be required due to service requirements or for urgent/emergent reasons (e.g. staff illness). When implemented, cross and multi-site coverage must be pedagogically sound, relevant to the educational program, maintain service to education principles and consistent with the guidelines of the RCSPC and/or CFPC.

Principles of Geographic Cross-Site Coverage

Cross coverage and multi-site coverage *must*:

- have educational merit – objectives, evaluation and feedback – for each resident in his/her program consistent with the guidelines of the RCPSC and/or CFPC;
- have an appropriate service to education balance;
- ensure that patient and resident safety is a consistent priority;
- be relevant to the educational program;
- be supported by appropriate hospital infrastructure and policies (e.g. each site has similar policies regarding when a resident needs to be present);
- be appropriately supervised by the most responsible physician;
- have appropriate:
 - handover,
 - documentation,
 - transfer of information, and
 - review of cases;
- be at a level of responsibility commensurate with the resident’s level of training and experience;
- not compromise other objectives of the resident’s current rotation.