

Still OPTI

POLICY		Policy No: IS-004
Subject: Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education	Approval: 6/29/15 Last Revision Approved: 10/28/2025	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE

It shall be the policy of Still OPTI-affiliated programs to protect the well-being, safety, and educational experience of resident physicians and interns during the event of a disaster.

POLICY

Process: Following the official announcement of a disaster that impacts the training of interns/residents, the Associate Designated Institutional Official (DIO)/CLER Director working with the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) and senior administrative staff will strive to reconstruct/reconstitute the interns'/residents' educational experience as quickly as possible. It shall be the responsibility of the program director and DIO to communicate the impact of the disaster with the appropriate Residency Review Committee and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. In the event the disaster prevents interns/residents from assuming normal residency training program activity, the DIO, GMEC, and program directors will determine the need for temporary or permanent transfer of interns/residents.

Program directors will provide to interns/residents temporarily transferred to other training programs an estimated time in which relocation to another residency is needed. If this occurs, salary, benefits, and professional liability will be continued by the transferring institution. Assignments and overview of educational experience will be continued by the original program director.

If the disaster prevents residency training programs from re-establishing an adequate academic experience for interns/residents within reasonable time periods, permanent transfers will be pursued (Refer to ACGME Policies and Procedures 25.30).

The DIO will be the primary institutional contact with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the Institutional Review Committee Executive Director during disaster plan implementation.

During and/or immediately after a disaster, interns/residents will be encouraged to continue their patient care responsibilities and to participate in disaster recovery efforts in accordance with the medical center policy. Interns/residents who remain assigned to the same Still OPTI participating site during the disaster shall continue to receive salary, benefits, professional liability coverage, and resident assignments in accordance to hospital policy throughout the disaster recovery period.

In the event of a disaster affecting other institutions with graduate medical education programs, Still OPTI participating sites may consider accepting intern/resident transfers. If the potential transfers exceed intern/resident complements for residency training programs, a formal request to expand the complement must be made to the ACGME. Requirements to increase the complement of interns/residents must be reviewed and approved by the GMEC prior to submitting documentation to the ACGME. The DIO and appropriate program director shall coordinate transfers from other

organizations. Training programs on probationary status shall not be eligible to accept intern/resident transfers.

Training programs will be required to protect all academic and personnel files of interns/residents from loss or destruction by a disaster. This shall include, if necessary, moving files to off-site facilities and using electronic media.

Each Still OPTI primary clinical participating site may have in place its own local disaster policy and a plan/procedure in case of disaster (Refer to the ATSU Policy NO. 95-113: Emergency Preparedness and Management or the hospital/university emergency preparedness/disaster policy). Disaster planning guidelines for residency training programs will be in accordance with the most current Institutional and Common Program Requirements established by the ACGME and will be coordinated with local procedures through the Still OPTI GME office.