

**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS**  
**RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM**  
**POLICY ON AWAY (EXTRAMURAL) ELECTIVES**

For the purpose of this policy, an away elective is defined as an experience taken as part of a resident's training in pediatrics at a site other than those at hospitals, clinics, offices affiliated with the Department of Pediatrics. This experience and training should be for a specific defined purpose.

There are multiple impediments that significantly limit the number of resident and the number of rotations away electives can be scheduled. These impediment also necessitate strict prerequisites which must be satisfied before consideration or granting of an away elective. In all cases, away electives require written approval by the Program Director and Chief Resident.

Away electives are not casual assignments to rotations at outside institutions. Residents on away electives result in reduced reimbursement for medical education to the hospitals funding the training program. Absences of residents from clinical services at program facilities result in an increased work burden on remaining resident staff. During seasons when the clinical services are very busy, there is not adequate resident staffing to permit away electives. No departmental/institutional funding is available to pay additional expenses (i.e. travel expenses, living expenses) which may be incurred. In addition, HHC will not indemnify residents outside of HHC facilities and the State of New York will not indemnify residents with appointments of clinical assistant instructor at any facility not formally affiliated with SUNY outside of New York State. In addition, residents cannot do away electives for any experience which is currently available within the residency program. As such, residents desiring away electives for otherwise unavailable experiences and at sites outside of New York State or affiliated institutions must provide documentation of independently obtained liability coverage.

In general, only one resident per month can be assigned away elective and only in the summer and spring (excluding June).. Residents must have an entirely satisfactory performance and attendance record and have completed at least one full year in our pediatrics program. All required rotations must be completed or scheduled to be completed before an away elective can be considered. Away electives are counted in total elective and selective experience time. Thus, an away elective will result in reduction in the number of electives/selectives received at program affiliated hospitals/facilities. As a result, resident in programs with reduced pediatric training (e.g., Medicine/Pediatrics, Pediatric/Emergency Medicine; special accelerated program) may be unable to schedule an away elective unless the missed training time is made up. Also, residents with extended leaves for other reasons may have difficulty scheduling away electives. Away electives cannot be used to substitute for RRC mandated residency experience.

The potential for abuse of away electives for non-educational purposes is great. Therefore, clear and valid educational benefits must be evident in planning an away elective. The trainee must identify a licensed independent physician who will supervise and provide a formal summative evaluation of the resident on the away elective. Specific written goals and objectives, experience and skills to be attained must be provided. This documentation should emphasize aspects of the away elective which are not available within the residency program. At the conclusion of the elective, the resident must provide a written evaluation of the experience and may be asked to make a formal presentation. In addition, the supervising attending must provide formal written evaluations of the resident. In the absence of this, credit for the elective month will not be given.

An increased work burden is placed on remaining residents due to absence of trainees on away electives. In the interest of fairness to all residents, calls missed in the program during an away elective at a distant site, will be expected to be made-up with additional calls assigned before or after completion of the away elective. However, for away electives at local institutions (New York metropolitan area) where a resident is within reasonable travel distance of the program's facilities, regular and full on-call responsibilities at UHB, KCHC are expected to be fulfilled. Also, midyear changes to the master schedule are highly disruptive and often detrimental to the program and adversely impact other residents. Therefore all away electives must be arranged and approved prior to preparation and completion of the annual master schedule.

Finally, away electives have the potential for impacting attendance to patient care in continuity practice settings. Residents on away electives at nearby local institutions are expected to return to UHB/KCHC to attend their continuity practices. Residents on distant away electives must have the approval of their continuity practice attending or director in order to be granted an away elective. In addition, the elective must occur at a time when there is enough advance notice to reschedule resident's patients who have prior appointments if necessary. The resident has the responsibility of arranging any additional coverage as may be needed.

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