

AHS – Department of Surgery Fellow Extender Guidelines

- Participation in after-hours acute care provision / call coverage will adhere to the Department of Surgery (DoS) On-Call Guideline which aims to protect the fellowship educational experience & trainee wellness while allowing for participation in acute care call schedules
- It is the duty of the trainee to ensure they are appropriately licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) which may include one of the following licenses:
 - Independent practice permit
 - No service limitations
 - Postgraduate trainee with physician extender license – regular
 - No service limitations
 - Physician extender – surgical assist license
 - Must limit extender shifts to home specialty (i.e. general surgery within general surgery/trauma or orthopedic surgery within orthopedic surgery. License restrictions do not allow for cross-coverage to other specialties)
- It is the duty of the trainee to maintain continuous Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) coverage
 - Alberta Health Services (AHS) requires a Type of Work (TOW) code 14 for trainees on an educational license
- The fellow must be registered with Medical Affairs and approved to participate as an extender within AHS facilities to be eligible for extender payment
- The Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) will be responsible for coordinating communication between the Fellow, Fellowship Program, Medical Affairs and CPSA to facilitate appropriate licensure and privileges
- After-hours coverage is to be defined as M-F 1700-0700hrs and weekends (Sat/Sun) plus statutory holidays 24/7
- Remuneration:
 - Remuneration for clinical duties associated with daytime fellowship activities is considered independent to this document

- Fellows are eligible to be reimbursed at approved extender rates (subject to be changed without notice):
 - General surgery / Trauma Surgery \$140/hr
 - Orthopedic surgery \$120/hr
 - Thoracic surgery \$95/hr
 - Urology \$120/hr
 - Vascular surgery \$120/hr
- Extender payments will be made directly to the fellow by AHS. The fellow will send an invoice to AHS for the shifts.
- For fellows that participate in a surgical-assist billing for fellowship remuneration, they may submit fee-for-service (on top of the hourly extender stipend) for on-call surgical assist activities but within the context of their fellowship UCMG agreement (i.e. subject to administrative levy)
- Frequency of call:
 - Surgical fellows are expected to participate in section-based acute care coverage at a minimum 2 calls per block
 - Frequency of call provision beyond the minimum, is at the joint discretion of the trainee, fellowship program director (FPD), Section Head, and Department of Surgery according to the DoS Fellowship Call Guideline
 - 2 calls per block means two shifts; a shift can be either 15 hours (M-F 1700-0700hrs) or 24 hours (weekends Sat/Sun plus statutory holidays 24/7)
 - Fellows may be excused from call participation with approval from the FPD, Section Head and Vice-Chair Education/Department Head for the following:
 - The fellow is identified to be having academic or clinical difficulty
 - Requirement for accommodation based on health or other personal circumstance
- Scheduling of call:
 - The Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) will be providing the Department of Surgery Acute Care Coverage (ACC) team with the names and contact information for all fellows
 - The ACC team will reach out to the fellows and ask for their availability 10 weeks prior to a block
 - The ACC team will schedule the call shifts based on the availability and the number of shifts requested (2 minimum) and will confirm with the fellow at a minimum 6 weeks prior to a block.
 - When issues with scheduling arise, the ACC team will engage the fellowship program director and Section Head for resolution. If no resolution is found the issue will be escalated to the Department Head.

Currently the section call requirement extends to fellows in General Surgery and Orthopedic Surgery.

Updated April 8, 2025