

OFFICE OF SURGICAL FELLOWSHIP

University of Calgary | Department of Surgery
Foothills Medical Centre | North Tower
1403 29th Street NW
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 2T9
T: 403-944-2185 F: 403-944-4301
E: surgical.fellowship@ahs.ca

Office of Surgical Fellowship Department of Surgery, University of Calgary

Fellows On-Call Guideline / Policy *Effective July 2025*

The Department of Surgery at the University of Calgary is committed to providing an optimal educational experience for all its trainees, including those in its subspecialty fellowship programs. It is recognized that provision of acute care surgical services, including those after-hours and on weekends / holidays, can be both an educational opportunity as well as a professional and service obligation. It is important to develop a framework that provides a meaningful service to education balance, and one that also gives direction to appropriate responsibilities, remuneration and recognition for provision of those services.

Principles

1. It is expected that our surgical fellows appropriately share, contribute, and support the on-call needs of their Subspecialty Program and Section
2. The subspecialty and specialty management of emergent / critical patients after-hours is an important element to the training of our fellows in preparation for independent practice
3. Call demands are program and section specific, as such the Department of Surgery & Office of Surgical Fellowship (OSF) endeavour to support a program specific approach
4. Call requirements for each fellowship program will be determined by its stakeholders including but not limited to the Section Head (SH), Fellowship Program Director (FPD), & the Fellowship training committee. The Department Head, the Office of Surgical Education (OSE), and the OSF will support and provide guidance to these conversations.
5. Financial remuneration is to be considered within the context of a sustainable income that at minimum meets thresholds as laid out by the University of Calgary (minimum PGY 3 salary equivalent), while also recognizing activities that go beyond expectations

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6. This policy is specific to supervised practice within the role of a learner or trainee (surgical fellow) and is not to be interpreted which respect to performing services as an attending staff and/or most responsible physician.

Call Frequency

- Fellow contracts include a statement setting expectation for a mandatory call requirement with frequency to be determined at the Section and Program level
- Call expectation can include up to but not to exceed the following (reflective of the current PARA agreement for residents):
 - Not to exceed 1:3 home call
 - Not to exceed 1:4 in-house call
 - No more than 2 out of any 4 weekends. In the event that a scheduled rotation has 5 weekends, then no more than 3 of those 5 weekends. This excludes weekend rounding responsibilities.
 - No in-house call duty on any portion of more than 2 consecutive weekends
- The DoS has an expectation that fellows be available to do a minimum of 2 calls per month for section based acute care coverage. Total coverage including both subspecialty and section-based call must not be more than 7 in-house calls or 9 home calls over a 28-day period.

Additional Call Contributions

- Fellows may be requested to contribute to general acute care coverage beyond their subspecialty fellowship on-call obligations within their home section. Whilst the OSF prioritizes subspecialty-specific call experience during this focused training period, participation in sectional call coverage can offer valuable benefits, including:
 - Enhanced clinical exposure
 - Maintenance of general competencies
 - Professional development opportunities

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- Collaboration and teamwork experience
 - Mentorship and networking opportunities
 - Additional reimbursement potential
- This additional section-based call coverage would be coordinated, balanced and prioritized in concert with the section together with other key stakeholders, particularly the section head, other section-based fellowship program directors and residency program director etc. Prioritization may be given to the residency programs and other tier one providers depending on the call demand, educational program and sectional needs (see PGME's Operating Standard on Extender Shifts).

Remuneration

- Program-specific call is supported through the fellow financial arrangement and primarily through the surgical assist model; and, in some instances, grants and scholarships
- Additional section-based call may be supported by the Department of Surgery extender pathway through hourly extender rates in addition to surgical assist fees where approved by the Department

References:

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/6/policies/resident-extendors-operating-standard-pgme-July22-v1.pdf>
https://www.parab.ca/uploads/source/Agreement_July_1_2024_to_June_30_2028_Final_Unsigned_v2_1.pdf