

## **Policy on Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education**

Effective 12/13/2019

Reaffirmed by GMEC 12/13/2024

Previous 05/12/2023

A substantial disruption in patient care or education is considered an event or set of events including natural, public health, or other, causing significant and prolonged alterations to the training experience and / or patient care for one or more McGaw training programs. If such an event occurs, the Designated Institutional Official (DIO), in consultation with GME institutional leaders, may elect to declare a disaster.

Upon McGaw's declaration of a substantial disruption, all trainees are to follow their member institution's disaster policies. The DIO will interface with base hospital crisis management teams and any appropriate governmental agencies. McGaw will communicate with trainees via member institution communication processes and Northwestern University email. If the DIO, in consultation with the Dean of the Medical School and McGaw's Board of Directors, determines that an institution's ability to support trainee education has been significantly altered, the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) may elect to invoke this policy.

The DIO is responsible for notification to the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) of the occurrence of a substantial disruption. The DIO will convene an ad-hoc GMEC meeting to review current training limitations, the extent of alteration of training, and determine next steps. The DIO will then work with Program Directors (PDs) to communicate with the ACGME and appropriate ACGME Review Committees (RCs).

If needed, PDs will assist in arranging temporary transfers to other institutions until McGaw can resume providing an adequate educational experience. Programs will make these transfer decisions as expeditiously as feasible to maximize the likelihood that each trainee will finish training on time. The PD will communicate with trainees the estimated duration of the temporary transfer and update trainees on the progress toward the resumption of McGaw training. The PD will update ACGME RCs as needed. When feasible, trainees temporarily transferred to another program will continue to receive McGaw's salary and benefits. McGaw may not be able to provide benefits and salary in all cases.

If the reduction or closure of a training program is necessary, the Policy on Program Closure or Reduction in Complement will be followed.