

Policy on Substantial Disruptions in Patient Care or Education

Effective 12/13/2019

Reaffirmed by GMEC 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.

Upon McGaw's declaration of a substantial disruption, all GME personnel are to follow their base hospital / clinical site emergency operation plan. The McGaw Designated Institutional Official (DIO) will interface with base hospital crisis management teams as well as any appropriate governmental agencies. McGaw will communicate with trainees using their individual Northwestern University email address. If the DIO, in consultation with the Dean and CEO of the member hospitals, determine that an institution's ability to support resident education has been significantly altered, they shall invoke this policy.

The DIO is responsible for notifying 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, extent of alteration of training, and determine next steps. The DIO will then work with Program Directors to communicate with the ACGME and appropriate ACGME Review Committees (RCs).

If needed, Program Directors will assist in arranging temporary transfers to other institutions until McGaw is able to resume providing appropriate educational experiences. Programs will make these transfer decisions expeditiously to maximize the likelihood that each trainee will finish training in a timely fashion. The Program Director will communicate with trainees the estimated duration of the temporary transfer and will update trainees on progress toward resumption of McGaw training. The Program Director will update ACGME RCs as needed.

If it is determined that permanent reduction or closure of a training program is necessary, the Program Director will seek to arrange for permanent transfer of trainees to other accredited programs. To the extent possible, the institution will aid in identifying programs willing to accept trainees. McGaw will remain responsible for maintaining trainee salary and benefits, and professional liability coverage, during a declared disruption in patient care or education associated with temporary transfers. If a substantial disruption results in program closure, McGaw will maintain trainee salary and benefits through the end of their academic year.