

PROCEDURE GME23

Subject:
SPECIAL ELECTIVES

Effective Date:
SEPTEMBER 2006

Applies to:
THE METHODIST HOSPITAL

Date Revised:
MARCH 2009

Originating Area:
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Target Review Date:
MARCH 2012

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

The design and sequencing of all educational activities in Programs of GME are approved by the Residency Review Committee (RRC) as part of the review process. Each Program must possess a well-organized and effective curriculum, both didactic and clinical, and provide residents with direct experience in progressive responsibility for patient management. In general, assignment to a Participating Institution must be based on clear educational rationale, integral to the program curriculum, with clearly stated activities and objectives. When multiple participating institutions are used, the Program and the Sponsoring Institution should assure continuity of the educational experience.

Most Program Requirements mandate that Programs obtain Program Letters of Agreement with Participating Institutions. Some RRCs require advance approval for additional Participating Institutions. Several RRCs require that a Program Letter of Agreement be obtained for any individual rotation.

This procedure describes the process by which residents in Programs of GME may participate in a Special Elective, i.e., an educational or clinical experience for which RRC approval has not been obtained.

II. DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL ELECTIVES

- A. Special Electives should be conducted in an ACGME-accredited Program and count toward residency requirements and, if applicable, specialty board requirements. The Program Director must make all arrangements and obtain a written Program Letter of Agreement (form available from GME Office) for the Special Elective. The Program Letter of Agreement must include:
 - o Educational objectives of the Special Elective
 - o Documentation of Supervising Medical Staff: The Supervising Medical Staff must be certified by one of the boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties and/or possess appropriate educational qualifications for Faculty.
 - o Work schedule with specific start and end dates
 - o Salary, health insurance, workers compensation, and malpractice coverage during elective
- B. A Program Letter of Agreement must be obtained for any Special Elective, regardless of the length of the experience.

- C. In general, Special Electives outside the United States will not be allowed due to licensure and liability coverage issues. In extraordinary circumstances, foreign electives may be allowed but must have prior written approval from the DIO, the Chief Academic Officer, and Methodist's Risk Management Office.
- D. Copies of written arrangements for the Special Electives must be sent to the GME Office at least two months prior to rotation.
- E. All Special Electives must be clearly documented on the Resident's rotation schedule. The Resident's time during the Special Elective may be declared for GME reimbursement by the Participating Institution.

III. COMMITTEE REVIEWING OR APPROVING PROCEDURE:

1. Graduate Medical Education Committee [14 September 2006] [12 March 2009]

AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCES:

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Institutional, Common Program, and Program-Specific Requirements.