

PROCEDURE GME26

Subject:

PRESCRIPTION WRITING BY RESIDENTS

Effective Date:

JANUARY 2012

Applies to:

HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL
SYSTEM – GME PROGRAMS

Date Revised/Reviewed:

MARCH 2020

Originating Area:

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Target Review Date:

MARCH 2023

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

Residents in Programs of GME must receive instruction on how to use and complete inpatient and outpatient drug and device prescriptions. This policy provides guidance to Programs and their Residents on the limitations of prescription writing by Residents. In particular, this policy is constructed on the basis that Residents are restricted to the supervised practice of medicine that is part of and approved by a Program of GME. In addition, there are other policies and regulations that may apply to prescription writing by Residents, including but not limited to the use of the Institutional DEA number.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PRESCRIPTION WRITING BY RESIDENTS

- A. Residents in all programs of GME must have either a Physician-in-Training Permit (PIT) per Chapter 171 of the Texas Medical Board rules or a Texas Medical License per Chapter 163 of the Texas Medical Board.
- B. A PIT holder is restricted to the supervised practice of medicine that is part of and approved by the program of GME. A PIT does not allow a Resident to practice medicine that is outside of the Resident's training program. A Resident on a PIT:
 - 1. May only write prescriptions for patients whose care is supervised by attending Physicians in the context of the Residents Program of GME
 - 2. Cannot independently write prescriptions for any individual outside of the context of the Resident's Program of GME
- C. A Resident with a Texas Medical License in a Program of GME continues to function in that Program under the supervision of Attending Physicians. A Resident with a Texas Medical License may not write prescriptions for any individual outside of the context of the Resident's Program unless the Resident is engaged in Moonlighting as defined and regulated by GMEC Procedure 14 and applicable program-specific moonlighting policies. Appropriate medical records must be created for each patient encounter that generated a prescription according to Chapter 169 of the Texas Medical Board Rules.
- D. Residents are allowed to use the Institutional DEA numbers for prescription-writing privileges solely for those activities that are a part of the Residents GME program. A Resident must include his or her assigned numeric code as a suffix to the Institutional DEA number. This numeric code is assigned and maintained by the GME Office. Use of the Institutional DEA number is not valid for outside remunerative employment, i.e.,

"moonlighting." Misuse of the institutional or personal DEA number while at Houston Methodist may subject the Resident to an Adverse Academic Action.

- E. Because of professionalism concerns articulated by the American Medical Association and medical record requirements described in the Texas Medical Board Rules, Residents in Programs of GME, whether they are PIT holders or have a Texas Medical License, are forbidden to write prescriptions for themselves or for family members.
- F. A Resident who violates this policy is subject to an Adverse Academic Action that may be initiated by either the Program or by the Sponsoring Institution through the DIO and may include Probation or Termination depending on the nature of the violation. Adverse Academic Actions resulting from violations of this policy will be reported to the Texas Medical Board.
- G. A Resident who asks another Resident to write prescriptions for himself/herself or for his/her family members will be considered as violating this policy.

IV. COUNCILS OR COMMITTEES REVIEWING OR APPROVING PROCEDURE

Graduate Medical Education Committee [11 January 2011] [10 November 2016] [12 March 2020]

AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCES

1. Texas Medical Board Rules, Chapters 163, 169, and 171
2. American Medical Association, Code of Medical Ethics: Opinions of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. Opinion 1.2.1 – Treating Self or Family (<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/treating-self-or-family>) (<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/ama-code-medical-ethics-opinion-physicians-treating-family-members/2012-05>)
3. Drug Enforcement Administration – Pharmacists Manual, Section IX.