

Night Float – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient medical floors; ICU (consultative support); hospital-wide rapid response areas
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks (2 months over 3 years; PGY1s do not participate in the first 3 months of the academic year)
- **Required or Elective:** Required

Rotation Overview

The Night Float rotation provides residents with supervised responsibility for the overnight management of hospitalized medical patients. Residents focus on acute clinical issues, urgent decision-making, cross-cover responsibilities, and effective communication with nursing staff and supervising physicians. The rotation emphasizes patient safety, timely evaluation, clear documentation, and preparation for independent practice in managing overnight clinical care.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop competence, efficiency, and clinical judgment in the evaluation and management of acute inpatient issues overnight while providing safe, high-quality, and patient-centered care in collaboration with interdisciplinary teams.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Provide timely evaluation and management of acute medical issues arising overnight on inpatient medical services
- Recognize clinical deterioration and initiate appropriate escalation of care, including ICU consultation
- Respond promptly and effectively to Code Blues and Stroke Team activations
- Perform focused overnight assessments and initiate evidence-based management plans

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Apply evidence-based approaches to common overnight clinical scenarios, including chest pain, dyspnea, delirium, fever, hypertensive emergencies, and hyperglycemia
- Demonstrate knowledge of acute management strategies and escalation of oxygen therapy and hemodynamic support
- Integrate clinical reasoning into rapid decision-making under time-sensitive conditions

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Reflect on overnight events and clinical decisions during Morning Report
- Identify learning gaps through overnight clinical experiences and pursue targeted self-directed learning
- Prepare brief, focused teaching presentations when clinical volume allows

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate clearly, professionally, and respectfully with nursing staff and interdisciplinary teams using secure messaging and verbal communication
- Provide concise handoffs and summaries of overnight events for Morning Report and day teams
- Demonstrate effective teamwork during emergencies and cross-coverage situations

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, reliability, and professionalism during overnight coverage
- Maintain appropriate professional communication standards, including respectful tone and clarity in secure messaging
- Prioritize patient care responsibilities and seek assistance when appropriate

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize hospital resources appropriately during overnight hours, including ICU consultation and rapid response systems
- Coordinate care effectively across teams during transitions of care
- Recognize system factors that impact overnight patient safety and workflow

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Respond promptly to overnight calls and evaluate patients under direct supervision
- Perform focused assessments and initiate basic management plans
- Document overnight events clearly and accurately

PGY-2:

- Independently manage common overnight issues with indirect supervision
- Prioritize multiple simultaneous clinical demands appropriately
- Participate actively in ICU consultations, Code Blues, and Stroke Team responses

PGY-3:

- Lead overnight clinical decision-making with attending backup
- Supervise junior residents during overnight events when applicable
- Demonstrate efficiency, autonomy, and leadership in complex overnight scenarios

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Overnight cross-cover and acute patient management
- ICU consultations and participation in Code Blues and Stroke Team responses
- Morning Report case discussions and teaching presentations
- Independent reading and topic review based on overnight clinical encounters

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct and indirect faculty observation
- Review of overnight documentation and clinical decision-making
- Participation in Morning Report discussions
- End-of-rotation evaluation mapped to ACGME milestones

Residents receive ongoing formative feedback and summative feedback at the conclusion of the rotation.

Supervision

Faculty supervision is provided in accordance with ACGME supervision guidelines and is based on resident demonstrated competence, PGY level, and patient acuity.