

IOWA METHODIST MEDICAL CENTER
UnityPoint Health – Des Moines
Department of Surgery Education
Policies & Procedures

Policy on Surgery Resident Call Response

Purpose

This policy defines the surgery residents' responsibility for response to all codes and trauma alerts.

Procedure

Surgery residents on 1st or 2nd call (in house) are expected to respond to all "Adult Medical Emergency - Code Blue" emergencies as defined in the policy for Adult Medical Emergencies response.

Surgery residents' response and respective roles are clearly defined in policies for the management of acute adult and pediatric trauma as defined by the institutional Trauma Committee.

Surgery residents on 3rd call at IMMC are at home. They are expected to respond to in-house needs as dictated by the clinical situations. The 3rd call resident will be made aware of all operative procedures. The 3rd call resident will respond when requested by attending physicians or the in-house call residents.

Surgery residents on call shall be responsible to carry out these responses within the allowable interval defined within the respective policies. Failure to appropriately respond will result in potential disciplinary action.

Realizing residents may become involved in duties that may not allow appropriate and timely Response, it becomes the individual resident's responsibility to identify an appropriate surrogate. It is solely the on-call resident's responsibility to notify the **Emergency Communication Center at 241-7777** both when transferring call responsibility to another resident and at the completion of the period of call transfer. Simply exchanging beepers is discouraged.

Residents are encouraged to seek such surrogacy when they are to become involved in complex operations, which may not allow immediate departure without jeopardizing the welfare of the patient. Residents should realize seeking surrogacy eliminates such occurrences and allows for complete care to all patients, especially those who may be adversely affected if immediate response would not be possible.