

CALL DESCRIPTION

A house officer will be assigned for call duty each day of the year. The responsibilities, under the direct supervision of the attending faculty member on call, will be:

Monday through Friday

1. Perform emergency autopsies and frozen sections from 5 PM to 8:30 AM the following morning.
2. Respond to calls from the clinical labs from 5 PM to 8:30 AM the following morning.

Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

1. First Call Resident (Autopsy Call) (Shands only)
 - a. Perform the first three** autopsies occurring on Saturday/Sunday (8 AM Saturday - 8:30 AM Monday) and holidays. Advise second call resident when you have begun your third autopsy case.
 - b. Perform the 6th and 7th autopsies if necessary, on Saturday/Sunday (8 AM Saturday - 8:30 AM Monday) or holidays. See On-call Autopsy policy. (Shands only)
2. Second Call Resident (AP/CP Call)
 - a. Perform all frozen sections for Friday evening, Saturday/Sunday (5 PM Friday - 8:30 AM Monday).
 - b. Respond to calls from clinical labs from 5 PM Friday - 8:30 AM Monday
 - c. Perform the fourth and fifth autopsies occurring on Saturday/Sunday (8 AM Saturday - 8:30 AM Monday) and holidays, and the 8th and 9th, if necessary. See the On-call Autopsy policy.

While the second call resident is performing an autopsy, the first call resident will perform any frozen sections if not concurrently performing an autopsy. If both are performing autopsies, that resident physically at the hospital which requires the frozen section, shall perform it.

**Autopsies on stillbirths should not routinely be performed on weekends. After appropriate inquiry into the case these cases can be postponed until the next workday, except in cases where fresh tissue is required for necessary metabolic or genetic studies. An exception may also be made if funeral arrangements have been made and an outside burial is planned. (See On-call Autopsy policy)

While on call at Shands Hospital, if a resident needs a room to sleep in, the resident is to use Room 5252 in the back of the MICU on the 5th floor (the "float-call" room). The room is routinely used by MICU faculty and residents, but there are 4 beds and a shower room. No key is required and permission to use the room was granted 1-17-2003 by Sharron Wallace of the house staff office.

NOTE:

1. An attending is always on call for assistance. (Residents should always check the attending call list whenever they are on call).
2. A Call Notebook is maintained for the purpose of documenting calls/responses, facilitating patient follow-up, education of other residents, and providing cases for discussion at the Monday CP Call-Review Conference.
3. Failure to respond to on call service responsibilities is a very serious matter, which can greatly compromise patient care and is neglecting one's professional responsibility. Initial disciplinary action at the discretion of the Chief Resident may consist of additional call assignments. Repeated problems will be referred to the Residency Training Committee.

4. If one is unable to fulfill call duties, it is the responsibility of the on call resident to notify his or her attending as well as the chief resident.

The call schedule is set up as follows:

- a. Holiday/long weekend calls are scheduled at the beginning of the academic year.
- b. Routine weekday/weekend calls are scheduled one month in advance. (A tentative schedule is posted one month in advance to allow plenty of time to arrange for exchange of assignments prior to posting of the finalized call schedule.)

Exchange of Schedule Assignments

NIGHT/WEEKEND/HOLIDAY changes must be arranged between individuals with the approval in writing of the Chief Resident. Changes made after submission of the call schedule are discouraged except in emergencies. It is the RESPONSIBILITY of those involved to advise the Staff in charge of the service, Shands and VA laboratories, and the paging operators at STH and MRVAMC of the specific changes made. The preliminary call schedule for each upcoming month is posted on the resident's bulletin board and all changes should be made before the final version is issued which is usually near the 15th of the prior month.

RESIDENT ON-CALL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When residents are on night call or weekend call, residents are EXPECTED TO KEEP THEIR BEEPER ON.
2. Before leaving the hospital on weekdays, residents are to call the gross room (Shands x4-6350) and MRVAMC (gross room x6997).
3. On weekends, residents are EXPECTED to:
 - a. Call the STH medical record operator (x4-4796) and the VA - Details Clerk in Medical Administration (376-1611) (for residents rotating at the VA) to determine if there are any pending autopsies (autopsy call only).
 - b. Maintain communications with faculty and associates during the day, especially if problems develop.
4. Residents must not hesitate in calling faculty when problems require advanced expertise. Faculty must be advised promptly of all suspected medical-legal problems (e.g. medical examiner cases).
5. Residents must professional when dealing with the nurses, technologists, staff and clinical colleagues. The residents' and faculty's reputation for quality service depends on our abilities, willingness and effort to solve problems.

ON-CALL AUTOPSY POLICY (FOR SHANDS)

1. The resident on Autopsy Call is responsible for the first, second and third, sixth and seventh, tenth and eleventh, etc. autopsies for the entire period on call.
2. The on-call time begins at 8:00 AM on the first day of scheduled call (i.e., Saturday at 8:00 AM for weekend call; 8:00 AM on holidays). STAT cases that may arise on Friday evenings are handled by the resident on clinical call. Autopsies performed by residents on the autopsy service as part of their rotation responsibilities late on Friday do not count as "on-call cases" for the next day.
3. On-Call Cases
 - a. All adult, pediatric, and live born neonatal cases must be done promptly over weekends and/or holidays, provided that appropriate permission has been obtained. Stillborn infants in which (a) congenital abnormalities are apparent, (b) a history of a hereditary condition is given, making the case complicated, or (c)

the parents have not given permission for cremation and intend to have the body removed by a funeral home, are included in this group.

4. The principles regarding uncomplicated stillborn infants include:
 - a. Cases that arise over a weekend, or on an isolated midweek holiday may be postponed until Monday or the next workday.
 - b. During "long" weekends (3 days or more) stillborn cases should be done as they arise starting on the first day of the long weekend, until two days before the end of the holiday period, e.g., in the case of a Saturday through Monday holiday, uncomplicated stillborn cases arising on Saturday should be done. In the case of a four day holiday, such as Thanksgiving, such cases should be done on Thursday/Friday, but Saturday and Sunday cases may be postponed over the weekend.
5. VA autopsies are performed by one of four residents covering the service on a rotating basis.

Standard Weekend Procedure:

The Autopsy Resident is responsible for contacting Shands Medical Records (x4-4796). The resident covering the VA on a VA rotation is responsible for contacting Medical Administration (x6004) at the VA Hospital on the weekends at 8:00 AM, 12 (noon), and 2:00 PM. Autopsies with completed permits prior to 2:00 PM on Saturday will be performed on that day except for uncomplicated stillborns (see separate criteria). On Sundays, the resident must again check in with Shands medical records and the VA administration at the above times. However, if the paperwork and permit for an autopsy is not ready until late afternoon i.e., after 2:00 PM and there is no urgency to perform the autopsy (Funeral home requests body, special case) it may be delayed until Monday.

ON-CALL RUSH BIOPSIES

Before leaving Friday evening, the on call resident should check with the gross room to see if there are RUSH biopsies for the next morning. Liver and renal RUSH biopsies are read out by the attending on service, and the on call resident should inform that. All other RUSH biopsies should be read by the attending on call.

ON-CALL BLOOD SMEARS, JOINT FLUID, AND BODY FLUID: MICROSCOPIC EVALUATION

The timing of microscopic evaluations of blood smears, joint fluids, and body fluids is at the discretion of the resident. If a clinician asks for an immediate interpretation, this should be honored as soon as possible. Otherwise, microscopic evaluations should be performed within at least 24 hours of sample acquisition.

ON-CALL AUTOPSY POLICY (FOR MRVAMC)

The resident covering the VA on a VA rotation is responsible for contacting Medical Administration (x6004) at the VA Hospital on the weekends at 8:00 AM, 12 (noon), and 2:00 PM. Autopsies with completed permits prior to 2:00 PM on Saturday will be performed on that day. On Sundays, the resident must again check in with the VA administration at the above times. However, if the paperwork and permit for an autopsy is not ready until late afternoon i.e., after 2:00 PM and there is no urgency to perform the autopsy (Funeral home requests body, special case) it may be delayed until Monday. During every rotation there are four residents assigned to MRVAMC, and each will cover one of the four weekends.

WEEKEND COVERAGE OF GROSS ROOM (SHANDS)

While on a Shands Surgical Pathology rotation, residents are expected to cover the gross room over the weekend. Each resident will cover one of the four weekends. During months where there are only 3 residents at Shands, the fourth weekend will be covered as a group effort, with each resident covering the grossing for their service and equally dividing up the un-covered service work.