

West Virginia University School of Public Health
Graduate Medical Education Policy on Transitions of Care
(CPR VI.E.3) (IR III.B.3)

To minimize the number of transitions in patient care, the Occupational Medicine (OM) clinic eliminated a separate residents' schedule and patients are now only listed with attending faculty physicians. Return appointments are scheduled using the following priority scheme:

- Same resident, same attending
- Different resident, same attending
- Same attending (alone)

For OM, this includes primarily out-patients, but is also applicable to any in-patients we may be following as consultants.

All patient visits are completed by the same provider(s) who started the visit. All clinic notes are constructed with sufficient detail to allow for follow-up by another provider if necessary. The potential for transfer of care within the clinic occurs between the initial and subsequent visits. It is the goal in all clinic scheduling to minimize transfers of care.

Interservice transitions of care are extremely infrequent, but may occur when a patient requires evaluation or treatment beyond the capabilities of the OM clinic for continued care. Examples would include patients with fracture(s) requiring orthopedic care or cardiovascular instability requiring evaluation in the Emergency Department. It is expected that the transfer will be done verbally with the receiving service. The resident is expected to contact a senior resident on the receiving service and provide them with all necessary medical information.

It is required that each resident be monitored by faculty for proficiency in verbal transitions of care annually. Following an actual or simulated inter-service transition of care, faculty will complete an evaluation of the transition, and the resident will be asked to complete a self-assessment. The goal of this is to guide the formation of the resident's inter-service transition skills.

Consistent processes of transfer of care as well as efficient communication are essential to ensure safe and effective patient care.

Approved by GMEC