

Harlem Hospital Center
Department of Pediatrics
Policies & Procedures

Attending Supervision of Residents
Supervisory Lines of Responsibility

The Department of Pediatrics follows the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation policy "Post Graduate Trainee Working Hours and Supervision". The July 1989 Section 405 of the New York State Code of Rules and Regulations, governing residents in training, mandates immediate attending supervision of all aspects of non-operative, pre-operative, operative and post-operative care of patients. In compliance with the law, each patient has an assigned attending Pediatric physician who is responsible for medical, social, ethical and legal aspects of the patient's care.

From the intern through the senior and chief resident, there is graded authority and increasing responsibility. The attending physicians' supervision encourages the progressive independent decision making of residents, so that the resident achieves independence by the end of the third year of training. This increasing responsibility is given to residents after direct observation of increasing skill, ability, cognitive knowledge and evaluations based on the general competencies. Interns are directly supervised by senior residents and the Chief Resident with attending support; the senior residents are directly supervised by the Chief Resident and attending faculty; the Chief Resident is directly supervised by the attending faculty and the Director and Associate Director of the pediatric residency program. Please see the Resident Responsibilities Policy for further information regarding resident responsibilities at each level of training.

Pediatric Attending supervision is available 24 hours per day, seven days per week on the inpatient services (inpatient floor, step-up unit, Nursery and NICU). Attending pediatricians supervising these areas are on-site during Tour II, 5 days per week, and round in-house with the residents 7 days per week. At all other times, attendings are immediately available (by telephone and/or in person if necessary) to supervise the care of patients.

The attending physicians supervise in-patient care through patient examination and discussion with the residents of all admissions, on-going patient care and consultations. Supervision is documented by appropriate notes in the chart, indicating that the resident's findings and care have been reviewed and agreed upon.

Residents are directly supervised for each patient encounter in the out-patient clinics and the Emergency Department. Residents take a detailed history, examine the patient, and consult with the attending physicians to confirm the diagnosis and to develop a management plan.

It remains the responsibility of each attending to provide the required adequate supervision for post-graduate trainees as defined in Section 405.5 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York. If for some reason an attending cannot/is not physically present within the hospital and cannot be reached by phone, another Attending from the service should be called. The Chief of Service should be notified immediately whenever this situation arises.