Physician Well Being Committee

Policy Number: GME - 007
Effective Date: July 1, 2001
Updated: July 1, 2010

Description:
This statement describes the function of the Physician Well Being Committee relative to House Officers in UCSD GME Training Programs.

Purpose:
To assure patient safety and physician wellness by encouraging UCSD House Officers to utilize the services provided by the Physician Well Being Committee.

Scope:
This policy applies to all Trainees in UCSD GME Training Programs.

Definitions:
"[Describe definitions, acronyms unique to this policy]"

POLICY:
UCSD Medical Center is committed to the early recognition of physician impairment and to the provision of supportive assistance when problems are identified. A primary obligation of the Medical Staff at UCSD Medical Center is to ensure that the care provided to patients by its staff is consistent with acceptable standards and to protect patient safety through the provision of preventive and supportive measures to impaired practitioners, including members of the housestaff. The Physician Well Being Committee (PWBC) is a standing committee of the Medical Staff and, as such, is afforded confidentiality protection under the California Evidence Code Section 1157. The main purpose of the PWBC is to provide impaired practitioners with a nonpunitive avenue for addressing and resolving their impairments. The Committee is dedicated to recognizing and offering assistance to staff physicians who have problems with substance abuse or physical or mental illness which impair their ability to practice safely and effectively. Confidentiality will be assured depending upon the severity of the situation and the immediate risk to patient safety. If a member of the housestaff is anxious about making the first call, that individual may want to contact the Chair of the PWBC initially to learn more about how the PWBC can help.

There are other resources available to house officers including:
- The supervising physician, including the Training Program Director, the Division Chief or the Department Chair.
- The Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
- The California Medical Association Confidential Physician Assistance Hotline
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Cocaine Anonymous
- Consumer Credit Counseling
- Narcotics Anonymous
- S. D. County Medical Society Committee on Well-Being of Physicians
- UCSD Psychiatry Associates
- UCSD Office of the Ombuds

References:
NA

Attachments:
NA

Approval Dates:
GMEC July 1, 2001; updated July 2010

Contact Information:
Office of Graduate Medical Education; http://meded.ucsd.edu/gme/