

Jeopardy Policy 2003-2004 Academic Year

Jeopardy Chief Pager 719-2037

The jeopardy system is crucial to our residency programs. In addition to ensuring that the teaching services have adequate staffing, the jeopardy system provides coverage to residents in times of need and upholds a spirit of goodwill and mutual responsibility in the program. Please read the following guidelines to ensure proper use of jeopardy and to avoid abuse of the system.

Jeopardy responsibilities:

- Third year residents are assigned to jeopardy coverage. When on jeopardy, residents should wear their pagers at all times and respond promptly to pages. Residents need to be available to work at any of the 3 hospitals within roughly one hour of being called. When called, residents should give a best estimate of when they will arrive at the hospital. We recognize that traffic and parking problems as well as living outside the city may cause some delay in response time. It is not acceptable to be far from SF (e.g., Santa Cruz, Napa, Tahoe) while on jeopardy.
- While on jeopardy, residents should not consume alcohol or otherwise be unprepared to work on short notice. If a jeopardy resident has a planned event, s/he must arrange coverage in advance and make sure that the covering person is aware of jeopardy responsibilities. R3 jeopardy residents may only be covered by other R3s or by R2s in the second half of the year.
- The chief resident in charge of jeopardy at any given time will keep a tally of how many hours each R3 has worked. Nighttime or weekend coverage are not counted differently than regular hours, but the jeopardy chief will try, as much as is possible, to equalize the amount and type of coverage done by jeopardy residents.

Purpose of jeopardy:

- To provide coverage for residents who are ill, have to attend to urgent family matters, or have other emergencies.
- To provide extra staffing for unusually busy clinical services. As a ward resident, if you are overwhelmed to the point that you feel patient care may be compromised, it is appropriate to call for jeopardy backup.

The Rules:

- The medicine teams at all three hospitals should comply with the usual caps for the maximum numbers of admissions on any given call night (10 patients plus ICU for 2 intern teams, 8 plus ICU for 1 intern teams).
- Once all the teams in the hospital have capped and there are more admissions, the medicine residents on-call should check in with each other and with any other R2's/R3's in house (i.e. CCU, CRI, day/nightfloat residents, 5R resident, etc). If any of the in-house residents (including the medicine admitting residents) are able to take more admissions (to be handed over to the next day's admitting team at 8 am), they are encouraged to do so.
- Medicine residents may admit cardiology patients and vice versa. If, however, all the residents in house are too busy with the patients on their services to safely take more admissions, the jeopardy chief should be called.

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The Rules (continued):

- If the medicine resident on call does not feel comfortable asking the other residents in house if they can admit more patients, the jeopardy chief should be called to facilitate this communication.
- **It is expected that residents will chip in and work hard to avoid calling jeopardy whenever possible *and* that residents will respect and accept the word of other residents when they are too busy with their current patients to take more admissions.**
- Residents who expect to need medical leave for any reason (including maternity or paternity) should contact their program director as early as possible in order to reconfigure their schedule, and avoid use of the jeopardy system.
- Jeopardy is not available to cover residents for scheduled events (social, professional, or medical), including attendance at conferences and weddings, and elective surgical/medical procedures that reasonably could be postponed.
- Jeopardy coverage is not available for residents for fellowship or job interviews or for R3s who plan to leave residency to begin new positions before the end of June.
- For residents called to jury duty, jeopardy may be used only when reasonable efforts to postpone jury service have failed. The chief residents can provide residents with a letter requesting postponement of jury duty.
- For events not covered by jeopardy, residents must arrange their own coverage (e.g., via "trades"). When requested in advance, specific days off often may be scheduled to avoid conflicts. Situations and schedule conflicts of particular difficulty may be worked out with the assistance of the chief residents and your program director.

Calling for coverage:

- Residents who recognize a need for jeopardy should call the jeopardy chief resident (719-2037) immediately. The jeopardy chief resident will help to decide if jeopardy is appropriate and will make the necessary arrangements for coverage. For the sake of jeopardy morale, residents are strongly encouraged to thank those who cover them.

Adherence to jeopardy guidelines is considered an integral part of a resident's responsibilities and performance.