Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Family Medicine Rural Rotation
Supervisor Guidelines

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Family Medicine Resident's Rural Rotation Program was created by the Texas Legislature based on the principle that resident physicians exposed to rural medical practice would be more likely to locate and practice in rural areas of the state. As funds are available, participation in the program is offered to all Texas Family Medicine resident physicians actively training in an accredited Texas Family Medicine residency program. Since the early 1990s, approximately 60 Texas Family Medicine resident physicians complete a one-month rural rotation have participated annually. Due to significant budget reductions, funding is only available to support a limited number of residents in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Your goal as a Rural Rotation Supervisor is to encourage the Family Medicine resident assigned to you to understand and appreciate rural medicine. The Family Medicine resident who participates in a rural rotation should complete the rotation having a greater awareness and knowledge of rural medicine in Texas. The following list offers suggestions for Rural Rotation Supervisors.

To Do:

- Prior to the rural rotation, meet with the Family Medicine Residency Program Director and resident. Discuss goals and ask questions.
- Plan a varied experience. Include all your activities (night-call, OB, minor surgery).
- Initially assess the resident's capabilities. Allow the resident to see patients with appropriate supervision. Involvement of the resident in direct patient care is preferable to merely observing. Be available to the resident at all times for consultation and supervision.
- Communicate often with the resident's Family Medicine Residency Program Director, especially when questions and problems arise.
- Involve the resident in the community through participation with you. For example, if you are a team doctor for the local football team, take the resident with you while you are on duty.
- Provide an opportunity for the resident to bring their spouse and/or children to visit the community. Following the successful completion of the rural rotation, invite the resident back to function as a locum tenens.

DO NOT:

- Do not take a Family Medicine resident for a rural rotation if you have a negative attitude toward rural medicine or Family Medicine. The goal of the rural rotation is to encourage residents to select rural practice, not to discourage them.

DO NOT:

- Do not utilize the resident as a locum tenens during the rural rotation. The rural rotation is not an opportunity for the Supervisor to attend a conference or take a vacation. **If you are unavoidably absent, alternate supervision must be arranged that meet all Rural Rotation Guidelines**.

- Do not treat the resident as a visitor, but rather as a participant in the community and medical activities.

- Do not be unnecessarily laudatory of the resident's performance; "Tell it like it is."

- Do not compensate the resident in any way other than that permitted by the rural rotation Guidelines (food and lodging). Doing so may jeopardize the resident's training status and board certification.

- Do not allow the resident excessive free time; please contact the Program Director if you are concerned.