

Policy on Disasters

12/13/2019

A disaster is considered an event or set of events including natural, public health, or other, causing significant and prolonged alterations to the training experience for one or more McGaw training programs.

Upon McGaw's declaration of a disaster, all GME personnel are to follow their member institution policies on disasters. The DIO will interface with base hospital crisis management teams as well as any appropriate governmental agencies. McGaw will communicate with trainees using member institution cellular communication processes as well as via Northwestern email. If the DIO, in consultation with the Dean and CEO of the member hospital determine that an institution's ability to support resident education has been significantly altered, they shall invoke the Extraordinary Circumstances (Disaster) policy.

The McGaw Designated Institutional Official (DIO) is responsible for notification of the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) of the occurrence of a disaster. The DIO will convene an ad-hoc GMEC meeting to review current training limitations, extent of alteration of training, and determine next steps. The DIO will then work with the Program Directors to communicate with the ACGME and appropriate ACGME Residency Review Committees (RRCs.)

If needed, Program Directors will assist in arranging temporary transfers to other institutions until McGaw is able to resume providing an adequate educational experience. Programs will make these transfer decisions expeditiously to maximize the likelihood that each trainee will finish training in a timely fashion. The Program Director will communicate with trainees the estimated duration of the temporary transfer and will update trainees on progress toward resumption of McGaw training. The Program Director will update ACGME RRCs as needed.

If it is determined that permanent reduction or closure of a training program is necessary, the Program Director will seek to arrange for permanent transfer of trainees to other accredited programs. To the extent possible, the institution will provide assistance in identifying programs willing to accept trainees. McGaw will remain responsible for maintaining trainee salary and benefits during a declared disaster and during temporary transfers. If a disaster results in program closure, McGaw will maintain trainee salary and benefits through the end of the academic year.