Viral Surge Planning

AMSPDC: Ann Reed (President), Doug Carlson (Chair of Education Committee)
APPD: Becky Blankenburg (Past President), Mike Weisgerber (Secretary-Treasurer),
Stew Mackie (Program Director EC), Lynn Thoreson (Associate Program Director EC),
Meredith Bone (Fellowship Director EC), Ryan Lion (Chief Resident EC),
Cassandra Shorter (Coordinator EC), Mike Dell (Vice Chairs of Education EC)
December 8, 2022

Agenda

- ACGME Emergency Status
- Advocacy with ECFMG
- Few Examples of Surge Planning
  - Leah Harris (Chair) – Dell
  - Stew Mackie (PD) and Juan Salazar (Chair) – U Connecticut
  - Elizabeth Halvorson (PD) and Lindsay Thompson (Chair) – Wake Forest
  - Meredith Bone and Hayley Gans (Fellowship Directors Exec Com)
- Open Discussion
- Share Tips and Recommendations

ACGME Emergency Status

- Individual programs can petition ACGME for emergency status.
- Must have concurrent plan to not be dependent on resident/fellow coverage long-term.
- Can pull residents/fellows from electives and core rotations to cover the surge.
- Per discussion with ACGME, use with caution – feedback from adult COVID surge.

Advocacy with ECFMG

- We are advocating with ECFMG to allow those on J-1 visas to be able to moonlight during this viral surge.

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Challenges with Increased Volume at Dell Children's



Leah Harris (Chair)

Challenges with Increased Volume at Connecticut Children's Medical Center/University of Connecticut



Stew Mackie (PD) and Juan Salazar (Chair)

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Major Challenges:

- Inpatient volumes have been high all year round without typical seasonal variation
- Hospital has essentially added a new service for inpatient Med-Surg unit with patients admitted boarding in the Emergency Department with wide rapid fluctuating volume from not having any patients to >20 patients

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Three Important Lessons Learned:

1. This is an institutional issue not just a residency issue
2. Need to develop long-term solutions as quickly as possible
3. Allow residents opportunities to help without mandating even in Emergency Categorization

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Challenges with Increased Volume at Wake Forest



Elizabeth Halvorson (PD) and Lindsay Thompson (Chair)

Challenges with Increased Volume for Fellows

Meredith Bone and Hayley Gans
(APPD Fellowship Directors Executive Committee)

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Discussion

Tips and Recommendations

- Minimize pulling residents/fellows from core rotations and electives.
- Establish or re-evaluate resident and fellow patient caps to ensure patient safety, safe work hours, and resident and fellow well-being.
- Add direct care-adjacent resources to care of patients (e.g., scribes and patient care navigators/coordinators).
- Reach out for assistance to other GME programs (e.g., family medicine, emergency medicine).
- Strongly consider paying residents/fellows for moonlighting or extra pay for additional work.
- Remind trainees to accurately report their work hours so we can carefully monitor the surge impact.

Tips and Recommendations

- Commit to preserving pre-existing educational time for trainees.
- Have frequent communication with residents and fellows and engage them for solutions.
- Consider providing extra support and coaching to senior residents as they take on roles within surge teams.
- Provide additional amenities for residents (e.g., food and snacks).
- Be sure to continue important sources of camaraderie, fun, and normalcy in your programs. Keeping program traditions going in these busy times is important.
- Show gratitude.

Tips and Recommendations

- Longer term:
  - Residency and Fellowship Program Leadership should work with Chairs to look at service needs beyond this acute/subacute surge.
  - Pediatric regionalization has caused large shifts in numbers of patients and need to ensure good approach to address both patient safety and education long-term.

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Thank you!