PURPOSE:

There is increasing realization and understanding of the detrimental effect of fatigue on physician performance both in terms of judgment and technical skills. As such, the WRHA Anesthesia Program needs to balance reasonable physician work hours along with the need to provide safe clinical service to patients.

DEFINITIONS:

**In-House call**: Clinical assignment requiring the Anesthesiologist to remain on-site to respond to service demands

**Out-of-Hospital call**: Clinical assignment requiring the Anesthesiologist to be immediately available by telephone/pager to respond to service demands, and attend hospital when appropriate.

POLICY:

1. No anesthesiologist shall be scheduled in a clinical area the day after an overnight In-house call assignment (post-call). This applies to the calendar day following:
   a. OR Call – HSC
   b. OR Call – SBH
   c. OR Call – Grace
   d. MAT Call – HSC
   e. MAT Call – SBH
   f. ICCS In-House Call

2. An anesthesiologist scheduled for an out-of-hospital ICU call will be scheduled as NC or Post-call for the following day unless requested and agreed to by the Anesthesiologist. If the assignment requires in-house attendance between 2400 and 0530, #4 below will apply.
3. Continuous In-House assignments will generally be scheduled to a maximum of 16 hours during weekdays. Any request to work on the scheduled ‘pre-call’ day during the week will be at the discretion of the requested anesthesiologist. On weekends/Stat Holidays, in-house call of up to 24 hours may be scheduled based on site requirements.

4. Individuals are scheduled clinically after an out-of-hospital anesthesia call (except Grace Hospital, see #1)

   If an out-of-hospital call requires in-house patient care between 2400 hrs and 0530, it is the expectation that the individual require an 8 hour rest period before any further clinical assignments.

   Acceptance of a clinical assignment for the day following out-of-hospital call when on site after midnight shall be at the discretion of the anesthesiologist.

**REFERENCES:**


**Approved by:**

Anesthesia Program Committee – November 20, 2012