

**DEPARTMENT OF CHILD HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA**

**DEFINITION AND DESCRIPTION OF NEONATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP DUTIES**

**PREAMBLE:**

The University of Missouri-Columbia Department of Child Health provides a Neonatology Fellowship Program. This description and definition of fellowship duties is provided as an attachment to our standard fellowship contract.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. For purposes of this document a “fellowship” is defined as a neonatal-perinatal postgraduate training experience in a three-year program of pediatric training in the full spectrum of neonatal and perinatal care.
2. For purposes of this document the “NICU” is defined as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Children’s Hospital at University Hospitals and Clinics.

**FACILITIES:**

The institutional facilities for fellowship, education, and training consists of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Well Baby Nursery, the Obstetrical Unit, Perinatal Center, and the Outpatient Clinics at the Children’s Hospital at University Hospitals and Clinics.

**DUTIES:**

Duties in the Department of Child Health include, but are not limited to the following:

1. To gain an understanding of the physiology of the normal fetus and newborn infant, and of the pathophysiology of the sick fetus and neonate.
2. To be able to identify mothers who are at risk for fetal and neonatal problems.
3. To be able to assess fetal well being and maturation.
4. To be able to identify intrapartum fetal risk factors and fetal distress.
5. To become skilled in the diagnosis of the sick neonate.
6. To become skilled in the management of neonatal problems including proficiency in resuscitation, stabilization, ventilation management, support, arterial and venous access, continuous monitoring, thermoregulation, enteral and parenteral nutrition, and pre- and post-operative management.
7. To gain an appreciation of laboratory techniques for the evaluation and care of the neonate.
8. To acquire the knowledge needed to provide an optimum environment for care of the sick and well neonate.

9. To develop an appreciation of the social implications of illness in the fetus and newborn.
10. To be able to evaluate perinatal outcomes from analysis of fetal and neonatal mortality and morbidity data, both from a local and regional standpoint.
11. To be able to evaluate various treatment modalities as to their efficacy and sequelae.
12. To be able to appreciate the long-term implications of fetal and neonatal illness through long-term follow-up.
13. To become skilled in the administrative aspects of neonatal/perinatal care delivery.
14. To become skilled in teaching techniques at all levels (public education, medical students, nurses, physicians, etc.) as a means for improving neonatal/perinatal care.
15. To develop competence in the research aspects of neonatal/perinatal medicine, including study design, protocol development, data analysis, and manuscript preparation and data presentation.

### **SUPERVISION:**

Appropriate qualified attending staff must adequately supervise all cases. Since the ultimate responsibility lies with the staff physician, the amount of time and degree of independence in the safe and efficacious performance of these duties outlined above will be at the discretion of the involved attending physician. In general, as the fellow progresses through his/her training, more independence is given to the fellow. By the third year of training, the fellow will be given the role of junior attending whereby the fellow runs daily rounds with the residents and students. The fellow will then round with the attending to confirm the plan of care of each neonate.

### **EVALUATION:**

Evaluation of the trainee's performance is carried out at three-month intervals and is reviewed with the neonatology staff. A plan is then formulated for the correction of any identified deficiencies. Faculty evaluation by the trainees occurs at the same intervals; departmental faculty review occurs yearly. Program objectives are reviewed in June of each year by the faculty and trainees.

### **RESEARCH:**

The fellow is expected to participate in at least one research project during his/her training. The fellow is provided with 14 blocks of time over the three years of training during which the trainee will have no clinical responsibilities. A mentor will be selected based on the fellow's interest and the fellow will help develop the research project including but not limited to study design, protocol development, data analysis and manuscript preparation. The fellow will be encouraged to present the findings at a conference.