

Nephrology Fellowship Program Jeopardy Coverage Policy

Nephrology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington

Introduction and Definition of Jeopardy Coverage:

In the Nephrology Fellowship program, Jeopardy coverage is the method of ensuring continued, safe and uninterrupted coverage for the Nephrology Inpatient consult services at Harborview, UW Medical Center Montlake, or VA Puget Sound hospitals in the event of an unexpected absence of the assigned fellow. All Nephrology fellows scheduled for inpatient service are eligible for Jeopardy coverage. Absences, whether planned or emergent, during an Elective Week or while on the RDU service at the VA hospital will not be considered for Jeopardy coverage.

In the case of any unexpected absence, it is the responsibility of the fellow requesting coverage to call or text the Program Director (PD) immediately; see process detailed below. Unexpected absences that could trigger Jeopardy coverage include fatigue, illness, a family emergency, parental leave, caregiver, or medical leave.

Clinical coverage is implemented without fear of negative consequences for the fellow who is unable to provide the clinical work. Jeopardy coverage does not require payback. Any voluntary schedule changes must be mutually agreed upon and approved by the Program Director and/or Program Administrator. Any changes should be communicated in writing to the PD and PA, and the PA is responsible for updating MedHub schedules and paging. The Program Director and Program Administrator are responsible for ensuring that fellows impacted by clinical coverage responsibilities still comply with the Institutional Clinical and Educational Work Hours Policy.

Process for Activating Jeopardy Coverage:

1. The fellow requesting coverage must call or text the Program Director (PD) to explain the nature and expected length of absence for coverage. If the PD is not available, the absent fellow should call the Associate Program Director (APD) or Program Administrator (PA) for guidance.
2. The PD will assign Jeopardy coverage* (referencing the MedHub Jeopardy schedule) and will notify the Jeopardy fellow and affected faculty. If the absence affects the fellow's Continuity Clinic, the PD will inform the clinic administrators and clinical faculty preceptors. The PD will share this coverage plan with the PA, who is responsible for updating the MedHub call schedule and paging as soon as possible.

*For Fellow Weekday Jeopardy Call: For the first 24 hours, the attending and co-fellow (if at Harborview or UWMC-Montlake, where there are 2 fellows) will cover the service.

For absences beyond 24 hours, the Jeopardy fellow will be called in to take over the responsibilities of the absent fellow. Any situation falling outside the scope of these processes will be reviewed by the PD on a case-by-case basis.

*For Fellow Weekend Jeopardy Call: The Jeopardy fellow will be called in to take over the responsibilities of the absent fellow immediately; there is no 24-hour waiting period.

3. The absent fellow should handoff any patients under their care to the fellow providing coverage.

Responsibilities Related to the Jeopardy Call Schedule:

Program Leadership:

Ahead of each academic year, the Program Director and Program Administrator will create a Jeopardy coverage schedule that includes all ACGME Nephrology fellows, as well as Clinician Researcher Nephrology research fellows. When possible, the fellow(s) on Elective Week will be the primary Jeopardy weekday fellow, and fellows not assigned to weekend call schedule will be the primary Jeopardy weekend fellow. The Program Administrator will share the Jeopardy call schedule by email before the start of the new academic year, upload it in the Nephrology Fellows' OneDrive folder, and upload the schedule in MedHub.

The Program Director and Program Administrator are responsible for ensuring that fellows impacted by clinical coverage responsibilities still comply with the [Institutional Clinical and Educational Work Hours Policy](#).

Fellows:

Fellows assigned to Jeopardy coverage must be available and responsive during their assigned coverage period, maintain up-to-date contact information, and be within 30 minutes of Seattle should they need to report for duty. This is consistent with their professional accountability to patient care.

If Nephrology fellows have concerns about Jeopardy coverage assignments or related negative impacts, they are encouraged to voice their concerns using the [GME Concern Reporting Form](#).