



**San Antonio Uniformed Services  
Health Education Consortium  
San Antonio, Texas**

**Transitions in Patient Care Policy**

I. **Purpose:** To ensure that all residents and fellows gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to ensure that patients safely transition from one provider to another or from one clinical setting to another.

II. Transitions in Care Policy:

A. Each program will develop **standardized** procedures for transitions in patient care that are used throughout the department for the safe hand-off of patients between providers and between locations in care.

B. All residents and fellows will **receive education** in the elements of safe patient transitions and in the program specific procedure for safe transitions.

C. Each program will design their educational experiences and clinical coverage schedules to **minimize** patient hand-offs while still honoring duty hour requirements.

D. **Assessment of the hand-off communication skills** of each resident will be part of the comprehensive evaluation process for the resident or fellow.

E. Each program will have procedures in place that allow for faculty to **monitor** the hand-off process.

F. Each program will have Transitions in Patient Care **guidance** that outlines its approach to the above expectations. This guidance may exist within the program's supervision policy.