Meals Policy

Scope: All residents and fellows participating in ACGME-accredited University of Washington post-graduate training programs (i.e., residencies or fellowships).

Policy: Residents and fellows must have access to appropriate food services 24 hours a day while on duty in all institutions (Institutional Requirement II.F.3.a). Meals will be provided to residents and fellows while assigned to University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC), Harborview Medical Center (HMC), Seattle Children’s Hospital (SCH) and the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System (Seattle VA) under the circumstances described below. Policies at other participating sites vary by location. Trainees should contact the local site director for more information.

Hospital Programs: UWMC and HMC
Residents/fellows on in-house call overnight shall receive reimbursement for the cost of two meals (dinner and breakfast) on weekdays, and for the cost of three meals (dinner, breakfast and lunch) on weekends/holidays. Residents/fellows working in-house 12 hours or longer shall receive reimbursement for the cost of one meal. Residents/fellows on home call who are called back into the hospital for patient care duties will receive reimbursement for the cost of one meal.

UWMC: The Plaza Café is open from 6:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. seven days per week. On-call meals may be purchased during the following hours.
- Dinner: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (may be purchased either on the day you are coming on-call or on your post-call morning (but not both).
- Lunch (weekends only): 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The evening food cart is available for meals after the Plaza Cafe closes, and the times and locations are listed on the Midnight Snack Schedule. The cart is open on weekdays from 7 p.m. – 3:30 a.m., and on weekends/holidays from 7:30 p.m. – 3:30 a.m.

HMC: Cafeteria hours are 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Friday, and 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. weekends/holidays. Snacks may also be purchased 24/7 from the basement espresso bar and vending machines located throughout the hospital and NJB (ground floor).

Reimbursement Rate and Process: Compensation levels are based on the average cost of meals at the hospital’s cafeteria. These levels will increase in proportion to the increases in the cafeteria’s price schedules. Each hospital will review its compensation levels annually and adjust them as necessary. Current rates for AY13 are as follows:
- On-call, in-house 24-hour shift - $15 (weekdays) and $22.50 (weekends/holidays)
- In-house 12-hour shift or longer - $7.50
- On home-call, returned for patient care - $7.50

On the 15th of each month (or after the two-week reporting window in MedHub has closed) the GME Office will run a Meals Report from MedHub for the prior month to pull duty hour data reported by housestaff to identify appropriate reimbursement rates.
The GME Office will contact trainees if needed, to verify the training site where a meal was purchased (e.g., if scheduled at multiple sites); requested information due to GME Office within one week.

The monthly meals report will be sent to the Husky Card Office, and the reimbursement amounts will be posted to the trainees’ Husky Card Account by the last week of the month.

Residents and fellows must have a Husky Card for reimbursement to be posted to their account, and should contact their training program if they have not yet received their card.

Funds posted to the account may be used for future meal purchases and at campus retailers that accept the Husky Card debit account. Visiting residents and fellows will receive reimbursement via check.

Schedules: Complete rotation and call-schedules by training site must be entered in MedHub by the training program in order for the meals reports to pull accurate reimbursement data.

SCH
SCH provides meals for residents and fellows under the following conditions:

- **12 hour day shift** (example: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) – qualify for one meal and may spend no more than $10 with your SCH badge
- **Swing shift** (a shift that is > 8 hours and ends between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m., example 5 p.m. – 2 a.m.) – qualify for one meal and may spend no more than $10 with your SCH badge
- **12 hour night shift** (example: 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) – qualify for two meals and may spend no more than $20 with your SCH badge
- **24-hour in-hospital call** – qualify for three meals and may spend no more than $30 with your SCH badge

To purchase food, the resident/fellow will need to present their SCH badge to the cashier. If they forget their badge, the SCH GME Office cannot reimburse for food purchased. Please refer to the SCH meals policy for more information.

Seattle VA
The VA provides on-call house staff with fresh food via a food cart. The food cart is available from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm in room 4b102 in Building 100.

After hours, food is located in a refrigerator in the closet of the Lodgers’ Lunchroom room BA101 near the elevators in the basement of Building 100. The code to the key lock of the room is available from the Service Line Chief. Housestaff should contact their Service Line Chief at the VA if there are any issues with availability of and/or access to meals.