

**LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL  
LEHIGH VALLEY HOSPITAL – MUHLENBERG  
Graduate Medical Education**

**GME Policy - Effect of Residency Closure or Reduction on Graduate Trainees**

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**I. POLICY**

Lehigh Valley Hospital recognizes the need for and benefits of graduate medical education. Lehigh Valley Hospital will provide programs in graduate medical education that emphasize personal, clinical and professional development and encourage among health professionals an awareness of, and responsiveness to ethical and human aspects of health care. Lehigh Valley Hospital is committed to the protection of graduate trainees in its programs and will take appropriate steps in the event of program reduction to attempt to phase out the program to finish their training. In the event of program closure, while no guarantee can be made that positions will be found, Lehigh Valley Health Network will devote appropriate resources to the location of positions.

**II. SCOPE**

All graduate trainees in ACGME, AOA, and CODA accredited graduate training programs.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

ACGME – Accreditation Council for Graduate medical Education

CODA – Commission of Dental Accreditation

AOA – American Osteopathic Association

DOE – Department of Education

GMEC – Graduate Medical Education Committee

**IV. PROCEDURE**

1. Upon notification from the ACGME or other accrediting bodies, or upon decision of Lehigh Valley Health Network Board of Trustees of the closure of a graduate training program, or a reduction in the number of positions, reasonable effort will be made to phase out/reduce the program allowing the current graduate trainees to finish the program.
2. If reduction or closure does take place, the graduate trainees will be informed as early as possible and notified in writing of the date of the closure of the program and information concerning steps to be taken regarding finding an alternative residency position.

3. The Program Director will meet with each affected graduate trainees to discuss options available.
4. The Graduate Medical Education Committee will be kept apprised of the status of the residency closing and of the success in obtaining alternative positions for the affected graduate trainees.
5. Appropriate documentation must be placed in the graduate trainees personnel file to show that appropriate attempts have been made to secure alternative positions for graduate trainees.

**Approved by the Graduate Medical Education Committee**

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| <b>Approved by:</b> Brian Costello<br>(Physician), Thomas Whalen (Evp &<br>Chief Med Officer) | <b>Approval Date:</b> 09/25/2017    |
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