

AID FOR IMPAIRED RESIDENTS PROGRAM (AIRS)

The Aid to Impaired Residents* Program (AIRs) is a confidential program which functions in coordination with the nationally recognized Aid for Impaired Medical Students Program (AIMS) developed by the University of Tennessee. The program is a cooperative effort with the Tennessee Medical Foundation (TMF) Physician's Health Program (PHP) and is designed to assess and provide assistance for psychological or substance abuse problem that might affect a Resident's health or academic performance.

Entry into the AIRS Program is a formal process and requires that a Resident follow a TMF PHP prescribed rehabilitation program. The residency positions of individuals entering the AIRS Program will be protected for up to six months until the resident receives advocacy of the TMF PHP and is ready to continue training or a determination is made that the resident will not be able to continue training.

If PHP treatment recommendations are followed, the GME Program will work with the Resident to maintain financial support for up to 90 days (the disability qualifying period) through payroll or disability benefits during the period of absence from training. Residents should contact their insurance provider to determine what health insurance benefits are available to assist with treatment costs. A Resident who resumes training after completing TMF PHP treatment will be subject to immediate termination if there is a recurrence of distressed behavior or if the Resident fails to maintain ongoing progress. Any exceptions to the policy, including requests for readmission to the TMF PHP due to recurrence of a Resident's distressed behavior, will be considered on a case-by-case basis by GME administration.

Referrals may be made confidentially by a health care provider, a co-worker, family member, friend, or the Resident. To make a referral or obtain more information, contact Associate Dean and DIO, Robert Fore, EdD, at (423) 778-6956, or Director of Graduate Medical Education, Pamela Scott, C-TAGME, at (423) 778-7673.

Residents may also contact the Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician's Health Program online at <http://www.e-tmf.org>, via email at michaelb@e-tmf.org, or by phone at (615) 467-6411. Below is the address:

Dr. Michael Baron, Medical Director
Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician's Health Program
217 Centerview Drive, Suite 304
Brentwood, TN 37027

Official status and periodic progress of UT College of Medicine Chattanooga Residents who are enrolled in the TMF Physician's Health Program and are under treatment, contract, and monitoring with TMF must be communicated to our Associate Dean/DIO, Dr. Robert Fore, and Director of GME, Pamela Scott, by the TMF Medical Director, Dr. Barron.

Click on this link to view a brief video about the TMF PHP and its mission:
https://youtu.be/A87cK9z_7KE.

*The term "Resident" refers to both Resident and Fellow trainees.

Approved by the GMEC 5/16/2017 and revised 4/17/2020 by the DIO to be consistent with the UTHSC policy.