



Families for Patient Safety

October 10, 2016

Thomas J. Nasca, M.D., M.A.C.P.
Chief Executive Officer
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
515 North State Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60654

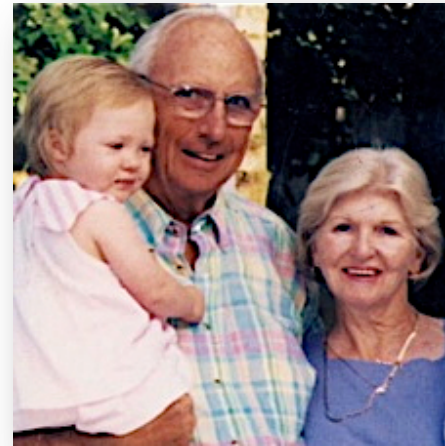
Re: The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's (ACGME's) Common Program Requirements for Resident Duty Hours in the Learning and Working Environment

Dear Dr. Nasca,

In 2005, my father, Bill Aydt, survived a successful lung transplant to cure Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, but he died 7 months later, never having left the hospital.

Why? With discharge on the horizon, Dad took a fall on a Friday afternoon. .

On the fateful weekend that sealed Dad's fate, a young doctor, inexperienced and wrought with fatigue, was in charge of his care. I don't know whether he was an intern, or a resident, but his reasoning and coping skills clearly declined as the hours ticked by and my father paid the price. By Monday morning, dad was admitted to the ICU with pneumonia. It was the first of several stays.



Others will write you citing the data and broad citizen support for maintaining the ACGME's current cap on 16-hour work shifts for first-year residents.

I write you as a family member who helplessly witnessed my father's decline in a perfect storm for unsafe care:

- An exhausted, overwhelmed, inexperienced doctor
- Working in a culture that clearly discouraged (perhaps, even penalized) interns from asking for help From senior physicians who were off duty that weekend
- A culture that discouraged nursing staff from disagreeing with or over-riding the resident's judgment.

There is so much room for improvement in patient safety: not only should the 16-hour cap NOT be rescinded for interns, but all residents should be sheltered under reasonable, common sense work hour guidelines. Please stand up for patients and their providers. In the name of Bill Aydt, and so many others who are never counted, please err on the side of common sense caution.

Sincerely,

Karen Curtiss
Founder, CampaignZERO, Families for Patient Safety, www.CampaignZERO.org
Author, Safe & Sound in the Hospital: Must-Have Checklists and Tools for Your Loved One's Care