UND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Policy on Order-Writing by Residents
and Attendings on All Teaching Services

A.   Purpose
This policy is a guideline to define order-writing for patients under the care of resident physicians.

B.   Application
This policy applies to all of the residency program's teaching services. This includes the Sanford Health Internal Medicine Teaching Service (IMTS) and the Sanford Health Critical Care Medicine Teaching Service (CCMTS). The program does not currently have any inpatient teaching services at other sites.

C.   Background
1.   The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) states: "Residents must write all orders for patients under their care, with appropriate supervision by the attending physician. In those unusual circumstances when an attending physician or subspecialty resident writes an order on a resident's patient, the attending or subspecialty resident must communicate his or her action to the resident in a timely manner."
2.   This is defined under Sections V-F-2-a-(12) of the ACGME Program Requirements for Residency Education in Internal Medicine (editorial revisions July 1, 2004).

D.   Policy
1.   The resident or supervising resident must write all orders for patients under their care (teaching service patients), with appropriate supervision by the attending physician. In an unusual circumstances when an attending physician or consultant writes an order on a teaching service patient, the attending or consultant must communicate his or her action to the resident in a timely manner.
2.   Exceptions to this policy will include:
    a.   Emergency orders when there is a life and death consequence.
    b.   Cross-coverage orders.
    c.   Pre- or post-procedure orders.
    d.   Unique subspecialty orders (for example, dialysis orders on patients followed jointly by the IMTS and a nephrologist).
    e.   CCMTS patients when a covering resident is unavailable (Currently, CCMTS residents are on call only until 9:00 PM. The service is covered over-night by an attending critical care medicine physician).