

Switched Call

Switched call arises from Article 14.09 (c) in the Resident Physician Collective Agreement:

A Resident Physician who is scheduled on home call but who is required to work more than four (4) hours in hospital during the call period, of which more than one (1) full hour is past midnight and before 0600 hours, shall be remunerated at the rate for in-house call. The rate of compensation will account for pay differentials for weekends and Named Holidays (Articles 14.09(a)(ii) and 14.09(b)(ii)). The Authority shall have the right to implement reasonable rules to verify that Resident Physicians are entitled to be paid the in-house call rate for that call period.

Switched call is home call that is paid at the in-house call rate, but counted at the home call rate in terms of call frequency. To be paid for a switched call shift, rather than a home call shift **all** of the following criteria must be met:

- the resident physician was scheduled as or expected to perform home call
- the resident physician spent four or more hours of that home call in hospital (those hours do not have to be consecutive)
- one of those hours was between midnight and 6am

If any of these qualifications are missing, the call shift would remain a home call. If these criteria are met, the shift should be designated at “s” on the call stipend timesheet and resident physicians would be paid the weekday or weekend in-house rate depending.

Designating this type of shift correctly (as “s” rather than “i”) can make the difference between a resident physician being flagged as performing excess call or not; switched call can be performed at a 1:3 frequency and in-house call only at a 1:4 frequency which will affect call maximum calculations.

If you are concerned about the number of call that ends up being switched, please contact the PARA office.