

Association of the 2011 ACGME resident duty hour reform with postoperative patient outcomes in surgical specialties.

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Rajaram R, Chung JW, Cohen ME, et al. Association of the 2011 ACGME Resident Duty Hour Reform with Postoperative Patient Outcomes in Surgical Specialties. J Am Coll Surg. 2015;221(3):748-57. doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2015.06.010.

https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/association-2011-acgme-resident-duty-hour-reform-postoperative-patient-outcomes-surgical

This pre-post examination of data from the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program found no differences in serious morbidity or mortality within 30 days following surgery across multiple surgical specialties in the 2 years after 2011 ACGME duty hour reform, compared to the last year prior to reform. Although duty hour reform does not appear to be a high-yield strategy for improving surgical outcomes, concerns about worsening procedural skills and increased handoffs leading to patient harm were not borne out in the current data.