

PEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT CALL SCHEDULER RULES

Updated: May 2025

Introduction

This document outlines the specific rules and constraints used for developing the pediatric department call schedule in the automated scheduling software. By documenting these rules, we aim to provide clear information to all providers about how call assignments are determined.

Call Schedule Structure

1. Call occurs Sunday through Saturday, with exactly one provider on call each night.
2. Friday and Saturday call is covered by the inpatient pediatric provider.
3. Sunday through Thursday call is covered by an outpatient pediatric provider.

Call Assignment Rules (Sunday through Thursday)

1. **Provider Eligibility:**
 - Providers are not assigned call on the day before or day of leave.
 - Providers are not assigned call on the Sunday or Monday before their inpatient week begins.
 - Providers are not assigned call on the Thursday or Friday after their inpatient week ends.
2. **Back-to-Back Call Restrictions:**
 - Providers cannot be scheduled for call on consecutive nights, except during holiday weeks with Monday-Thursday holidays.
3. **Weekly Call Distribution:**
 - The scheduler tries to avoid assigning the same provider to call more than once per week, except for holiday coverage.
 - This is enforced as a soft constraint (with penalties) to maintain schedule feasibility.
4. **Holiday Call Coverage:**
 - For Monday-Thursday holidays: The same outpatient provider takes call on the night before the holiday and the night of the holiday.
 - For Friday holidays: The same provider takes call on the Thursday before the holiday and the Sunday after the holiday.

Call and Clinic Interactions

1. **Post-Call Restrictions:**

- Providers who take call are not scheduled for afternoon clinic sessions the following day.

2. Random Day Off (RDO) and Call:

- A provider cannot have an RDO on a day they are scheduled for call.
- The scheduler tries to avoid scheduling an RDO on the day after a provider takes call (soft constraint).

Call and Inpatient Interactions

1. Call Restrictions:

- Call is not assigned the Sunday and Monday before the start of inpatient.
- Call is not assigned the Thursday and Friday after the end of inpatient.