



## 19.01 Resident Safety Policy

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### 1. Overview

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- 1.1 Residents have the right to a safe environment during their residency training.
- 1.2 The purpose of this document is to:
  - a) provide a policy regarding workplace safety for resident trainees in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Toronto
  - b) demonstrate the residency program's commitment to the protection and safety of the residents.
- 1.3 The responsibility for promoting resident safety rests with the university, the Program, affiliated teaching sites, and the residents.
- 1.4 This policy complies with the Royal College accreditation standards A2.6, B1 3.9.1-3.9.3 and B3 9.
- 1.5 This policy provides information in addition to the "Postgraduate Trainee Health and Safety Guidelines, (January 2013)" available on the PGME website.

### 2. Scope

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This program policy comprises resident safety in the areas of travel, patient encounters, after-hours consultations in isolated clinical areas, and patient transfers or transports. It also includes occupational health and safety, and workplace environmental health and safety. These policies apply only during residents' activities that are related to the execution of residency duties.

### 3. Program-Specific Policies

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- 3.1 Residents should not assess violent or psychotic patients without the backup of security or a supervisor, and also an awareness of accessible exits.
- 3.2 Residents must not perform *any* patient transports or make unaccompanied home visits.
- 3.3 A supervisor must always be present if the resident is seeing a patient in an ambulatory setting after hours. This does not apply if the patient is being seen in the emergency room/labor and delivery or on a hospital ward.
- 3.4 Pregnant residents should be aware of specific risks to themselves and the fetus in the training environment, and request accommodations where indicated. Residents should consult the Occupational Health site office for information.
- 3.5 Residents working in areas of radiation exposure must:
  - a) carry radiation dosimeters
  - b) follow radiation-safety policies
  - c) minimize their exposure according to current guidelines.
  - c) wear radiation protective garments if using fluoroscopic equipment.
- 3.6 On-call rooms and lounges provided for residents must be clean, smoke-free, located in safe areas; and have adequate lighting, a phone, fire alarms and smoke detectors, and lockable doors.
- 3.7 Residents planning a global health elective outside of Canada must adhere to the PGME Global Health guidelines.

#### 4. Resident Responsibilities

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- 4.1 At each individual clinical site, residents must:
- a) participate in required safety sessions including Fire Safety, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information and Safety (WHMIS), and Infection Control
  - b) adhere to the safety codes of each training site
  - c) know the location of the Occupational Health Office, and services offered, including policies and procedures for infection control, and protocols following exposure to contaminated fluids, needle stick injuries and reportable infectious diseases.
- 4.2 Residents must observe universal precautions and isolation procedures when indicated.
- 4.3 Residents must report any situation where personal safety is threatened and should be aware of the contact for security at participating training sites.
- 4.4 Residents must keep their immunizations and TB skin testing up to date.
- 4.5 Residents must organize overseas travel immunization when traveling abroad for electives or meetings.
- 4.6 Residents traveling for clinical or other academic assignments by private vehicle should maintain their vehicle adequately and travel with appropriate supplies and contact information. Residents must adhere to provincial laws regarding cell-phone use.
- 4.7 Residents are not expected to travel long distances during inclement weather for clinical or other academic assignments. If such weather prevents travel, the resident is expected to notify their chief resident or clinical supervisor immediately.
- 4.8 Residents should not drive home after call without adequate rest. Residents who feel unsafe to drive post-call should take a taxi home and back to retrieve their car. Taxi reimbursement is covered under the PARO contract.
- 4.9 Residents doing home call and arriving after hours should
- a) assess their environment for safety before leaving their car
  - b) have a cell phone available to contact security if an escort is required.
- 4.10 Residents should not provide any personal contact information to patients, e.g., cell phone, pager number, home phone.

#### 5. Program Responsibilities

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The Residency Program is responsible to:

- 5.1 Ensure that information sessions on WHMIS and Occupational Safety are available for the residents in the participating clinical sites.
- 5.2 Ensure that there is a specialty-specific and site-specific orientation session available.
- 5.3 Ensure that each training site remains compliant with the program policy (via the site coordinators).

#### Version Control

Date	Version No	Author	Location of Revisions	Approved at RPC Meeting
April 10 2012	Draft v 1.4	C Sutherland	First material	April 04 2012
Oct 26 2015	Draft v 1.7	C Sutherland	Revisions throughout	Nov 05 2015 (presented)