

Travel Safety Guidelines for Residents

Office of Accountability:	Postgraduate Medical Education
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Postgraduate Medical Education
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Overview

At times throughout their residency program, residents will be required to travel to complete clinical placements and academic commitments. Residents are to choose the most appropriate method of transportation considering distance to destination, time of day, season, weather conditions and academic/clinical responsibilities. Common sense and practical considerations for reducing risk should take precedence.

Purpose

To provide guidelines for the safe travel of residents when undertaking activities related to the delivery of residency duties.

Scope

All residency programs at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Memorial).

Guideline

1.0 Responsibility of the Residency Program

- 1.1 To act promptly to address identified travel safety concerns and incidents and to be proactive in providing resources and support to residents encouraging safe travel.
- 1.2 To provide an unscheduled day (travel day) between rotations to or from distributed training locations.

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2.0 Responsibility of the Resident

2.1 When traveling by vehicle, residents are expected to:

- 2.1.1 adhere to provincial traffic laws and regulations at all times (e.g. cell phone use, speed limits);
- 2.1.2 ensure they have adequate insurance coverage on their vehicle, whether owned or rented;
- 2.1.3 check the road and highway conditions before travelling, in order to make informed travel decisions;
- 2.1.4 execute caution and judgement at all times, especially when driving in inclement weather or when fatigued;
- 2.1.5 travel with appropriate supplies (e.g. emergency car kit and contact information);
- 2.1.6 adequately maintain their vehicle (e.g. winter tires, sufficient gas);
- 2.1.7 be cautious of moose.

2.1.7.1 Moose are very common in all areas of the island, including the St. John's metro area. Moose are most active at dusk and dawn, and appear more frequently during the peak months of May to September.

2.2 If long distance travel is required for clinical or academic assignments, residents should ensure that a colleague or the residency program office is aware of their itinerary.

2.3 In the event of a motor vehicle accident while travelling for clinical or academic activities, residents are required to notify both the Postgraduate Medical

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Education (PGME) office and the residency program office.

2.4 Call Schedule

2.4.1 Residents should not drive home after call if they have not had adequate rest. It is recommended that residents avail of a taxi or bus service to return home, at their own expense.

2.4.2 Residents should not be on call the day before long distance travel for clinical or academic assignments by vehicle. When long distance travel is required in order to begin a new rotation, the resident should request that they not be on call the weekend preceding the beginning of the rotation.

2.5 Travel during inclement weather conditions

2.5.1 In cases of inclement weather, residents are to be aware that hospitals will remain open even if Memorial is officially closed. As employees of a Regional Health Authority, residents must make every effort to report to work.

2.5.2 If a resident is unable to report to work as a result of inclement weather (or expected to arrive late), the resident is expected to contact their supervisor/Program Director promptly. Upon returning to work, the resident is required to submit a leave request form to the residency program office for vacation time.

2.5.3 If a clinical service decides to reduce or close services due to weather conditions, the resident may be able to remain home, or leave their work area early, with the approval of their supervisor/Program Director, and subject to operational requirements.