

Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Resident Safety Policy



Revised February 2015



Resident Safety Policy

1 OVERVIEW

- Residents have the right to a safe environment during their residency training
- The purpose of this documents is to provide a policy regarding workplace safety for postgraduate trainees in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Memorial University and to demonstrate the commitment of the residency program in the protection and safety of its postgraduate clinical trainees
- The responsibility for promoting resident safety rest with the university, hospitals, affiliated teaching sites, clinical faculty and the residents themselves
- This policy complies with the Royal College accreditation standards A2.5 and B3.0.1-B3.9.3.

2 SCOPE

- This policy covers resident safety in the areas of travel, patient encounters, after-hours consultations in isolated departments and patient transfers or transports. It also includes occupational health and safety as well as 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

- 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/labour and delivery or on a hospital ward.
 - 3.4 International electives are acceptable only in countries with a stable political environment with a qualified preceptor to provide adequate supervision. Additionally, there must be a Canadian Consulate in that country.
 - 3.5 Pregnant residents should be aware of specific risks to themselves and their fetus in the training environment and request accommodations where indicated. Residents should consult the Occupational Health Office for information.
 - 3.7 On-call rooms and lounges provided for residents must be clean, smoke-free, located in safe locations, and have adequate lighting, a phone, fire alarms and smoke detectors. There must be locks on doors.
- If a resident has any concern about their physical safety in relation to hostile patient situations in Labor and Delivery (or elsewhere), security should be paged to escort the resident to and from the call room as needed.

4 RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 Residents must participate in required safety sessions including Fire Safety, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information and Safety (WHMIS), Infection Control and follow the safety codes of their training site. Residents should familiarize themselves with the location and services offered by the Occupational Health Office. This includes 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 should keep their immunizations and TB skin testing up to date.
- 4.5 Residents must organize overseas travel immunization and advice well in advance 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 the administrative resident or clinical supervisor immediately.
- 4.8 Residents should not drive home after call if they have not had adequate rest. Residents who feel unsafe to drive post call should take a taxi home and back to get their car. Refer to PAIRN policy and PGME Travel Safety Policy.
- 4.9 Residents doing home call and arriving after hours should 1) assess their environment for safety before leaving their car and 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.