

POLICY ON RESIDENT SAFETY

Department of Family Medicine University of Alberta

The University of Alberta residency program recognizes the need for residents to feel safe and practice in safe learning environments. In general the following policies should apply when attending to patient care.

- 1) During block-time Family Medicine, in academic clinics and in community based practices residents may be required to see patients during office hours, after hours and while on call. Settings in patient care can include the office, long term care facilities and in private homes. Family Medicine residents will not be required to see patients alone in any of these settings without a supervisor or colleague.
- 2) A supervisor must be present on site:
 - a. while the resident is seeing patients after hours in the clinic
 - b. when the resident does home visits
 - c. at the end of office hours if the resident is still with patients
 - d. if the supervisor is unable to be in the clinic after hours another clinic staff member must be present to assist when necessary
- 3) Residents should not assess violent, angry or psychotic patients without the backup of security and accessible exits.
- 4) Any resident issues or concerns about safety should be brought to your faculty advisor, directly to the Post Graduate Director or the Director of Urban or Rural Programs. For an urgent situation while on call, the staff physician on call should be able to assist you with any concerns. Issues of safety not directly related to patient care activities should be directed to the Post Graduate Director or assistant Directors for further discussion.
- 5) If in the residents estimation it would not be safe to travel because of weather the resident may elect not to attend an academic day or clinical half day but must inform the appropriate directors or coordinators in a timely manner.
- 6) Residents are not required to attend academic half day if they are greater than 50 km away from the academic day location nor are they required to attend on post call days. It is recognized that academic sessions are organized and produced for the benefit of resident education so it is anticipated that most residents will not schedule call days the day prior to academic day activities. Should residents feel well rested despite being post call, they are encouraged and welcome to attend academic sessions. If not attending due to post call residents must inform the Family Medicine Residency Program office of this reason for absence.
- 7) On post call days, as negotiated through the PARA contract, a resident may hire a taxi for transportation if they are feeling unable to drive to their residence. The cost of the taxi will be reimbursed through PARA. Further information on this reimbursement is available through the PARA website.
- 8) Residents should not give out personal information to patients (i.e. home telephone numbers and addresses). To protect personal telephone numbers from patients with call display (Telus) dial *67 prior to the call.