The Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) has received a letter of understanding request from the resident physicians in Family Medicine. Letters of understanding provide PARA resident physicians with the opportunity for additional scheduling flexibility beyond the Resident Physician Agreement in the interest of improved work-life balance and well-being; letters of understanding are resident physician driven and can only be applied to a limited set of agreement articles. Resident physicians subject to this letter of understanding are to contact PARA in the event that they no longer wish to comply with this letter.

In order to ensure adequate access to labour and delivery learning opportunities, the resident physicians in Family Medicine have requested additional scheduling flexibility through an allowance for a call system involving scheduled home call (mix of obstetrics home call and clinic home call) and an optional event-linked informal call while on Family Medicine and Primary Care Obstetrics blocks for the 2013/2014 academic year (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014). While on those rotations, resident physicians cannot perform more than nine home calls in a 28-day block; this maximum includes any scheduled home call and every instance they get called in for deliveries while on the optional event-linked informal call system. The event-linked informal call system is optional as it requires resident physicians to keep their pagers on for most of the month, although they are expected to ensure they turn their pager off for two weekends per 28-day block and communicate this information to the appropriate individuals in advance.

PARA approves this scheduling modification and the approval is contingent on Family Medicine's ability to schedule subject to the guidelines set forth in your letter of understanding. Your letter establishes this scheduling policy as follows:

- Applicable at the following sites:
  - **Primary Care Obstetrics Sites**: Ellerslie Maternity Care Clinic (EMCC), Mom Care Docs (MCD) Allin Clinic and Northgate site, St. Alberta PCN Maternity Clinic, Edmonton West PCN, Woodcroft Health Clinic, Heritage Medical Centre, and Dr. Gerhard Jacobs private PCOBS clinic.
  - **Family Medicine Sites**: Misericordia Family Medicine Centre, Royal Alex Hospital Family Medicine Centre, Grey Nuns Hospital Family Medicine Centre, North East Community Health Centre, and Community sites including: Westview Physician Collaborative, Salvus Clinic and Wayne Daviduk (St. Albert), Meadowlark Family Practice, Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Family Medicine Clinic at Kaye Edmonton Clinic, East Edmonton Family Care Clinic, LA Medical (Leduc), Justik Clinic, Heritage, and Dominion.
Department of Family Medicine Resident Policy

- Participation in this system is on a volunteer basis. Should a resident physician want to have a traditional call schedule that follows the guidelines of the current Resident Physician Agreement, the Family Medicine clinic or Primary Care Obstetrics clinic and fellow resident physicians on that rotation must respect and accommodate that resident physician’s decision.

- The maximum of nine (9) home call, including scheduled home calls and every instance a resident physician gets called in while on the informal event-linked call list, is in effect as per the Resident Physician Agreement.

- In the event that a resident physician responds to a medically related page, that event counts towards one of their maximum allowable nine home calls.

- Once a resident physician has been called in and/or scheduled (obstetrics home call and/or clinic home call) for the maximum number of calls for that rotation, that resident physician has filled their call quota for the 28-day block and can no longer be scheduled for or required to perform additional call.

- Resident physicians shall ensure their pager is turned off and that they are not expected to respond to calls on two weekends out of any four; resident physicians will be directed to contact the PARA office individually if they are requesting approval to waive this article.

- Call duration guidelines are in effect as per the Resident Physician Agreement.

- Any letters of understanding will apply.

- In circumstances where a resident physician gets called in for event-linked call or scheduled for home call for a total fewer than 9 times, that resident physician is still entitled to claim 9 home call stipends per 28-day block provided they were on the informal event-linked call list.

- Resident physicians are allowed to take a post-call day if they return to hospital between midnight and 6 am as per Resident Physician Agreement Article 14.05 (e). If a post-call day is required, the resident physician will let the preceptor know. The family medicine clinics and primary care obstetrics clinics must have a system in place to have appropriate coverage should the resident physician take a post-call day.

This agreement exemption is subject to review throughout its one-year term and will require reapplication upon expiry.
PARA reserves the right to survey and follow-up with the resident physicians to find out their reflections on this letter of understanding.
If you require any further clarification, please contact the PARA office.

Sincerely,
Tana Findlay
Interim Chief Executive Officer