Policy Statement:
Participation in the Department of Family Medicine AARP by physician faculty members and clinic preceptors is strictly voluntary. NAAFP will not knowingly seek to impose any penalty on members who choose to not participate in the AARP, but there are possible consequences to non-participation that are not within the control of NAAFP, and some may not be anticipated.

The purpose of this policy is to:
Confirm that NAAFP is in conformance with the AARP agreement.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Universities Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.
1. **DEFINITIONS**

1.1 **AARP** – the academic alternate relationship plan entered into between the Participating Physicians, the University, Capital Health, and Alberta Health and Wellness.

1.2 **Master Agreement** – is the agreement regarding the tri-lateral relationship and budget management process for strategic physician agreements amongst Alberta Health and Wellness, the Alberta Medical Association, and the Regional Health Authorities dated April 1, 2003 and includes amendments thereto.

1.3 **NAAFP** – the association of Northern Alberta Academic Family Physicians.

1.4 **Non-Participating Physician** – A non-participating physician is a faculty member of the Department of Family Medicine or a clinic preceptor working in a department academic teaching clinic who chooses not to participate or is unable to participate in the AARP.

1.5 **Participating Physician** – means a physician who or whose professional corporation has signed a Letter of Participation in the Department of Family Medicine AARP.

1.6 **Physician Services Budget** – is the budget established under the Master Agreement for the provision of specified services to eligible Albertans.

2. **Procedures**

2.1 Non-Participating Physicians will bill the Physician Services Budget on a fee-for-service basis for clinical services provided to eligible individuals.

2.2 Accountability to the Department of Family Medicine will be through existing methods. The job description and performance reviews will be negotiated through the Chair of the department. Other accountabilities will be through work relationships such as the governance at teaching centres, committee involvement and other projects.

2.3 The Non-participating Physician’s contributions and roles within the department will be acknowledged and visible in the same fashion as other department members.

2.4 NAAFP is not responsible for dealing with consequences of non-participation. Examples might include overhead charges from regions, tithe requirements from academic institutions, costs of individual business operations etc.

2.5 Evolving Master Agreement policies regarding physician membership in AARP’s will be respected and may change the circumstances of physicians moving into and out of the family medicine AARP.