Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology Resident Safety Policy

**Preamble:**

Residents have the right to work in a safe environment during training. The purpose of this document is to provide a policy regarding workplace safety for postgraduate trainees in Ob Gyn at the University of Alberta and to demonstrate the commitment of the residency program in the protection and safety of its postgraduate clinical trainees.

It is recognized that the responsibility for resident safety is jointly shared between the resident, residency program, FOMD, University of Alberta and its Affiliated Hospital Sites, and Alberta Health Services.

This policy complies with the Royal College accreditation standards A2.5 and B3.1.9 and does not supersede any University wide or Health Services Policy that is also established.

**Scope:**

This policy covers resident safety in the areas of travel, patient encounters, including house calls, after-hours consultations in isolated departments and patient transfers (transports) (Royal College Standard B1.3.9). It also includes Occupational health and safety as well as workplace environmental health and safety.

For the purposes of this policy, postgraduate trainee includes residents and clinical fellows.

**These policies apply only during residents’ activities that are related to the execution of residency duties**

**Program specific policies:**

Residents should not assess violent or psychotic patients without the backup of security or a supervisor and also an awareness of accessible exits.

Residents are not expected to make unaccompanied home visits or perform air transports.

A supervisor must always be present if the resident is seeing a patient in an ambulatory setting after hours. This does not apply if patient is being seen in the emergency room/labour and delivery or on a hospital ward.

Residents must observe universal precautions and isolation procedures when indicated.

International electives must occur in a stable political environment with a qualified preceptor to provide appropriate supervision. Additionally there must be a Canadian Consulate in that country.

Pregnant residents can have specific risks to themselves and the fetus. Therefore their training environment and their duties may be modified to minimize these risks.

**Responsibility of the resident:**

The resident/fellow must participate in required safety sessions including Fire Safety, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information and safety (WHMIS) Infection control, and follow the safety codes of the site where they are training.

The resident/fellow must report any situation where personal safety is threatened and should be aware of the contact for security at participating training sites.
Residents should keep their immunizations and TB skin testing up to date.

Overseas travel immunizations and advice should be organized well in advance when traveling abroad for electives or meetings.

Residents traveling for clinical or other academic duties by private vehicle should maintain their vehicle adequately and travel with appropriate supplies and contact information. If the resident has determined that it is unsafe to travel (i.e., due to extreme weather concerns) they may elect not to attend their clinic or academic half day however must behave as a professional and inform the chief resident and their clinical supervisor immediately.

Residents who feel unsafe to drive post call should opt to take a cab home and then back to get their car. Reimbursement is covered under the PARA contract.

Residents doing home call and arriving after hours (this applies especially to chief residents) should be aware of their environment before leaving their car and have a cellphone available to contact security if it is deemed an escort is required.

If resident feels potential threat to their safety, resident should not leave car and leave accordingly. In the rare event this occurs resident should notify the attending on call.

**Responsibility of the program**

To ensure that information sessions on WHMIS and Occupational safety are available for the trainees in the participating sites

To ensure that there is an initial specialty specific, site specific orientation session available

To develop a protocol for postgraduate trainees on what to do in the event that personal safety is breached

To ensure (via the Education coordinators for each site) that each training site remains complaint with the program policy.

**References:**

Standard A2.5.

All participating sites **must** take reasonable measures to ensure resident safety at all times, particularly considering hazards such as environmental toxins, exposure to infectious agents transmitted through blood and fluid, radiation, and potential exposure to violence from patients or others.

3.9 establishment of a written policy governing resident safety related to travel, patient encounters, including house calls, after-hours consultations in isolated departments and patient transfers (i.e., Medevac). The policy should allow resident discretion and judgment regarding their personal safety and ensure residents are appropriately supervised during all such clinical encounters. The policy **must** specifically include educational activities (e.g., identifying risk indicators).