



Nuclear Medicine Residency: Safety Policy

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1. Purpose

The UBC Nuclear Medicine Residency Program (“the Program”) is committed to the promotion of health, safety and wellbeing of all residents. The Residency Accreditation Consortium has developed general standards for residency programs. Standard 5.1.2 states that “Residency education occurs in a safe learning environment.” This policy is a program specific addition to the [UBC PGME policy](#) on resident health and safety (UBC PGME Policy Manual).

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the Program’s commitment to personal safety of its residents and to deliver a mechanism to report unsafe/hazardous training environments along with a procedure to take corrective action. The following items are specific to Nuclear Medicine and are in addition to the UBC policy.

2. Responsibility and Authority

The residents must report all situations where personal safety is threatened using the following guidelines:

- If a resident identifies a personal safety or security breach, they must report it to their immediate supervisor and Program Director to ensure resolution of the situation.
- If a resident feels that they are in a situation where their safety is threatened, the resident should seek immediate assistance and remove themselves from the situation in a professional manner. The resident should notify their immediate supervisor and the Program Director.
- Residents should ensure that they are aware of the security contact information of their rotation sites should there be a safety issue after regular working hours.
- Residents are responsible to manage fatigue as it relates to their personal safety. Available resources include: (1) [WorkSafeBC](#) (2) [Resident Doctors of BC](#) (3) [Resident Wellness Guidebook](#)

It is the responsibility of the Program to ensure that all residents complete the University of British Columbia Infection Control Basics, as well as the Student Practice Education ‘Core’ Orientation (SPECO). Class information is available at the following link: [Training Requirements](#). It is also the responsibility of the Program to ensure that the practice setting has a site-specific protocol in place to address the following: (1) Patients who may present a safety risk; (2) Working alone or in isolated areas/after hours; (3) Any other scenario that may be a safety issue to the trainee. These protocols must be communicated and readily available to trainees during their orientation and throughout their rotation.

3. Nuclear Medicine Specific Safety Issues

Nuclear Medicine residents must recognize the unique psychological and physical demands of training in nuclear medicine as they relate to personal safety, inclusive of radiation exposure safety. These include, but are not limited to:

- Occupational Radiation Exposure:



- Nuclear Medicine physicians, including residents, do not have an expectation of exceeding the radiation safety limit to the general public, nor has this ever been found to be the case after many years of experience. Therefore, residents do not have to carry a personal dosimeter during their Nuclear Medicine Residency training as per the Regional Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). Pregnant residents are not required to notify the RSO or be monitored, but if they wish to carry a personal dosimeter, they should speak to the Program Director to arrange this.
- Residents rotating through their "Tech Rotation" may carry a personal dosimeter (digital) if desired. This needs to be arranged by the Chief/Head Technologist at least a week before the first day of their rotation.
- Residents are expected to ask their Program Director or supervising staff Nuclear Medicine physician if there are any concerns or ambiguity regarding this policy.
- Emergencies, including Radiation Spills/Contamination:
 - Residents will receive instructions on dealing with minor and major radiation spills as well as direction about how to respond to non-radiation related medical errors. Residents will attend a simulated course on radiation spills through Vancouver Coastal Health and attend a Radiation Safety Course through BCIT as part of their residency program.
 - Residents will also be required to complete several online modules through the Health Authorities (LearningHub) during their Orientation to residency (i.e. "Bootcamp") and Technical Rotation. Residents are responsible for completing the following LearningHub Courses, which are also required of all nuclear medicine physicians in the region:
 - Radiation Safety: Radiation Safety Basics (Course 9947)
 - Radiation Safety: Radiation Safety for Nuclear Medicine Technologists (Course 9951)
 - Radiation Safety: Quiz - Safe Use of Radioisotopes in Nuclear Medicine Manual ()
 - Nuclear Medicine Radioisotope Spill Clean-up & Personnel Decontamination (Course 25194)
 - Radiation Safety: Working with Radioactive Iodine-131 (I-131) Therapy Patients for Nuclear Medicine (Course 15527)
 - Transportation of Dangerous Goods & Nuclear Medicine (Course 14310)
 - Residents should ensure that they introduce themselves to the Chief/Head Technologist at each of their rotation sites and receive an orientation of the hot lab (if their site has a hot lab). Any department-specific policies and procedures will be discussed with the resident at this time.

Residents must also be aware of the safety issues inherent in clinical education. These include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to blood, blood products, and bodily secretions posing an infectious risk.
 - Use of universal precaution techniques, and procedural precautions to minimize exposure risk.
 - Frequent performance of invasive procedures.
- The critical importance of ongoing vigilance in minimizing personal and patient safety risk. This includes risk related to acute and chronic fatigue.

- Recognition of safety risk in substance abuse and dependence in the workplace.

4. Substance Use

The Canadian Medical Association, as well as the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada code of ethics clearly describe that Residents have a responsibility to themselves, the public and the profession to practice appropriate self-care, to care for colleagues, and to protect patients. Additionally, in British Columbia “a registrant must report in writing to the college if the registrant, on reasonable and probable grounds, believes that the continued practice of a designated health professional by the other person might constitute a danger to the public” - Health Professions Act 32.2.1. This duty is explored in the [CPSBC Duty to Report](#). One situation where this duty to report pertains is when a resident is impaired in the course of performing their job because of drugs or alcohol, or when a resident suspects that a colleague or co-worker may be impaired, so it is important for residents to know that there are resources available for making these reports. Residents can also receive guidance and support in a situation like this from the program director, or from one of the confidential faculty advisors in the pediatric radiology program.

Resources available to Residents who are suffering with substance use or who suspect a colleague is suffering with substance use are available: (1) [UBC Resident Wellness Centre](#); (2) [Physician Health Program](#); (3) [Employee Wellness](#)

5. Reporting and Management Procedures

Injury and Incident Reporting – Radiation Incidents

Residents who are involved in or witness a safety breach with regard to the handling or administration of radiopharmaceuticals should immediately report the incident to their staff nuclear medicine physician and/or the Site Supervisor. Residents will be introduced to the Site Supervisor at each of their rotation sites during the site orientation. Depending on the nature of the safety incident, the Site Supervisor can contact the Site RSO and they might activate and follow their own emergency plan (the Site Supervisor is also the Site RSO in many cases). If Site Supervisor/RSO is not available, residents can call the 24-hour number listed in the department. The Radiation Emergency Contact Information for the main teaching sites is as follows:

Site	Daytime Emergency Contact (Site Supervisor/RSO)	24-hour Emergency Contact (RSO on call)
Vancouver General Hospital	604-875-4111, Ext 66534	1-833-343-4784
Paul’s Hospital	604-806-8079	1-833-343-4784
Cancer Agency	604-877-6000, Ext 2025	604-875-4200; #05108 (pager)
Children’s Hospital	604-875-2129	1-833-343-4784

Injury and Incident Reporting – Non-Radiation Incidents

Information regarding immediate management and reporting of an injury or incident is available at the [Provincial Workplace Health Call Centre](#), or by calling 1-866-922-9464.

As such, when a resident is involved in an incident that results in injury while at work or is involved in any event that could have injured someone, but did not (dangerous occurrence, near miss, near accident) it needs to be reported. Residents are Provincial Health Services Authority Employees and therefore they must:

- Seek medical attention immediately as required. Residents must identify themselves as Health Authority employees to the caregiver or Emergency Department so that appropriate paperwork can be completed.



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- The resident must report the incident immediately to their attending supervisor.
- The resident, with the assistance of their supervisor, must report the incident to their Program Director.

Residents are also subject to [WorkSafeBC guidelines](#).

Blood Borne Infections

Residents are required to self-disclose blood borne pathogens or infections directly to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia (CPSBC) as described in the [CPSBC Blood-borne Pathogens in Registrants Practice Standard](#)