

UBC Neuroradiology: Safety Policy

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1. Purpose

The UBC Neuroradiology 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 display 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.

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:
 - o [WorkSafeBC](#)
 - o [Resident Doctors of BC](#)
 - o [UBC Resident Wellness Guidebook](#)

It is the responsibility of the Residency 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 the responsibility of the Program to ensure that the practice setting has a site-specific protocol in place to address the following:

- Patients who may present a safety risk
- Working alone or in isolated areas / after hours
- 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 training period. The Postgraduate Medical Education Office will work conjointly with the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to ensure compliance:

- [VCH Workplace Safety](#)
- [VCH Workplace Hazards](#)

3. Radiology-Specific Safety Issues

Neuroradiology Residents must be made aware through formal and informal instruction, as well as during the course of daily clinical interaction, of safety issues particular to radiology. 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 work place.
- Recognition of the unique psychological and physical demands of training in radiology as they relate to personal safety, inclusive or radiation exposure safety

Radiation Protection

All residents should complete the [Fluoroscopy: Practical Radiation Protection](#) course available through the VCH Learning Hub. In addition, further information regarding radiation exposure monitoring is available on the [Resident Doctors of BC](#) website.

The guiding principle of radiation safety is “as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA)”. This principle means that even if it is a small dose, if receiving that dose has no direct benefit, you should try to avoid it. There are three basic protective measures in radiation safety: time, distance, and shielding.

- Time: Minimize time near a radioactive source to only what it takes to get the job done
- Distance: Maximize your distance from a radioactive source as much as possible
- Shielding: Place something between you and the radiation source

Dosimeters

For Neuroradiology Residents, dosimeters are provided by VGH and arranged through the VGH Administrative Secretary for the Department of Radiology. Refer to the Resident Handbook for contact information.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Eye protection is an integral part of protection against transmission of viral particles. Goggles or face shields are required PPE used in Droplet & Contact precautions and Airborne precautions, including aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs).

Safety goggles and face shields can be obtained in the fluoroscopy and angiography suite areas on the main floor.

4. Fatigue Risk Management (FRM)

The Residency Accreditation Consortium general standards for residency programs defines “fatigue risk management” as a set of ongoing fatigue prevention practices integrated throughout all levels of an organization to monitor, assess, and minimize the effects of fatigue and associated risks.

Residents have a responsibility to both manage and mitigate the potential risk of fatigue. They should ensure good communication between themselves and their rotation supervisors when there are conflicts regarding training schedules.

The Program's procedures regarding the education and implementation of the FRM plan include:

- Education and training for residents and faculty
 - o [Epworth Sleepiness Scale](#)
 - o [CMA Fatigue Management Scale](#)
 - o [Resident Doctors of BC Resources](#)
 - o [BMA – Fatigue and Sleep Deprivation Module](#)
 - o [Transport Canada – Fatigue risk management for employees module](#)
- Self-Reporting Procedure
 - o Residents should report incidents, or perceived risk of making a fatigue-related error to their immediate supervisor. Incident or event reporting is for the purposes of maintaining a safe learning environment. If the resident does not feel that they are able to safely report to their immediate supervisor, they should report to the Program Director
 - o Alternatively, the resident can report the incident or event to the [Provincial Workplace Health Call Centre](#), or by calling 1-866-922-9464
- Continuous Evaluation
 - o All reports of incidents, events and perceived fatigue-related risks received from faculty, residents, or other sources will be collated and reviewed as required by the RPC. Findings and recommendations of the RPC will be communicated with both the faculty and the residents

- o Review and revision of the Safety Policy and its procedures will be made on an annual basis or more frequently as required.

5. 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 Neuroradiology Program.

Resources available to Residents who are suffering with substance use or who suspect a colleague is suffering with substance use are available:

- [UBC Resident Wellness Centre](#)
- [Physician Health Program](#)

6. Reporting and Management Procedures

Injury and Incident Reporting

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 Vancouver Coastal Health 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 initially.
- The resident must report the incident immediately to the consultant they are working with at the time.
- The resident, with the assistance of their consultant supervisor or on-call attending, must report the incident to their Program Director.

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

Blood Borne Infections

Physicians and 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](#).