

**PGME GUIDELINE:
RESIDENTS AS SUBJECTS IN FORMAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

PGME recognizes that there is a tradition in medical education of peer physical examination. However, PGME firmly believes that this method of teaching for Residents should only be reserved for formalized educational activities where it is deemed that the educational objectives cannot otherwise be similarly achieved through simulation, use of standardized patients, or other teaching strategies.

Specifically, Residency Training Programs or Program Directors may only consider Residents as subjects in formal educational activities if they felt that Residents could not otherwise attain a comparable opportunity to:

1. Appreciate normal anatomy and function
2. Develop compassion and empathy for a patient
3. Gain insight into what it feels like to be examined or treated from a patient perspective
4. Improve communication skills in a supervised and safe environment
5. Correct errors in technique without causing distress or alarm to patients
6. Protect patients from repeated or uncomfortable examinations or procedures
7. Obtain constructive and timely feedback from their tutors and their peers

In principle, we believe that this method of formalized teaching and learning of clinical skills, where Residents act as model patients for one another to allow practice of physical examination and procedural techniques, is **only** acceptable if **all** the following conditions exist:

1. Approval by the appropriate Residency Training Program and/or Program Director
2. Clear educational objectives or goals have been provided in advance and are considered to be consistent with the overall curriculum of a program
3. Voluntary participation by Resident learners in a way that is acceptable to them, appreciating their culture, religion, gender, background, upbringing and prior experience
4. Non-intimate body region examination or non-invasive clinical skills and procedures; or role- playing with appropriate dress
5. Appropriate supervision to facilitate and support Resident learning
6. A safe and appropriate learning environment where examinations and procedures are undertaken in a respectful, professional, and confidential manner

Residents who do not wish to participate as subjects for such educational activities; or, Residents who do not wish to participate in such educational activities where there will be Residents as subjects, must not feel coerced into doing so, and will not be penalized professionally, academically, or socially in any way by the Supervisor, Program, Administrators, or Peers.

PGME would advise that all Residents who do wish to voluntarily participate as subjects for any such educational activity are requested to sign the Resident as Subject Consent and Confidentiality Form. This form is available through the PGME website.

In addition, PGME would advise that all Residents participating in a formal educational activity where Residents act as subjects, review and adhere to the agreed principles on appropriate behavior and dress, as well as maintaining confidentiality of all personal and health information revealed or discovered during such tutorials by signing the Resident as Subject Consent and Confidentiality Form.

Where an incidental health-related finding requires further action, or an unanticipated outcome occurs as a result of the educational session, the Supervisor(s) is responsible for determining the appropriate action to be taken - in conjunction with the affected Resident whenever possible –and, this must be done in a confidential and sensitive manner.

Any concerns that might arise during the course of such an educational activity, or about a particular educational activity where Residents as Subjects are involved, should be raised directly with the Supervisor, Program Director, or Associate Dean of PGME. All concerns will be treated confidentially and without repercussion to the Resident/Participant responsible for bringing the concern(s) forward.

Approved by PGME Committee: June, 2015



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

**CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Postgraduate Medical Education**

RESIDENT AS SUBJECT IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY – CONSENT AND CONFIDENTIALITY FORM

Educational Activity: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

- I consent to take part as a Subject
- I consent to take part in the educational activity but NOT as a Subject

I have read the PGME guideline on this matter and agree to comply with this and uphold the Professional Standards of the Cumming School of Medicine:

https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/6/policies/faculty-of-medicine-professional-standards-code-of-conduct-pgme-mar08-v1_0.pdf

As a participant, I will treat my fellow students professionally and with respect and sensitivity at all times.

As a participant, I will keep confidential any information revealed or discovered during these sessions.

As a voluntary subject, if a concern is raised about my own health or well-being as a result of a finding during one of these tutorials, I will be guided by the supervisor or program director as to the appropriate action to be taken.

As a voluntary subject, I have been made aware of all reasonable potential risks or complications by my supervisor.

X

Signed

Dated