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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Designated Clinical Placement Procedure for Indigenous Students

BACKGROUND

Designated Clinical Placements for Indigenous Students will be prioritized for Midwifery students who have self-identified as Indigenous to UBC Midwifery. This designated clinical placement is one way in which UBC Midwifery is responding to an identified need to support a culturally safe learning environments for Indigenous students, in addition to meeting Indigenous-specific educational needs. The Designated Clinical Placement is also in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action number 23, which is:

23. We call upon all levels of government to:
- i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field.
 - ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care providers in Aboriginal communities.
 - iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare professionals.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT PRIORITY

In response to the need to restore Indigenous Midwifery within Indigenous communities, and as an act towards reconciliation, Indigenous students will be prioritized for placements that are available within their Indigenous territories and as close as possible to their Indigenous communities, as requested. UBC Midwifery will make every effort to pair the student with a placement that meets their learning goals and ensure there is a plan in place that will satisfy educational requirements.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to approve Designated Clinical Placement Sites for Indigenous Students:

- i) All members of the practice group have taken Cultural Safety Training and can provide documentation of completion (required for all designated Indigenous placements).
and
- ii) The designated Midwife or a minimum of one preceptor on the team is an Indigenous Midwife with an interest in precepting Indigenous Midwifery students.
and/or
- iii) The designated Midwife, Midwifery team or practice takes active steps to include Indigenous clients in their care and can describe what these steps are. Designated practices will provide statistics on the proportion of clients who are Indigenous, always striving for that statistic to match or exceed that of the local Indigenous population.

PRECEPTOR EXPECTATIONS

Additionally, all preceptors of a Designated Clinical Placement for Indigenous students will be expected to:

- i) Promote Indigenous-specific education by supporting students to attend Indigenous learning opportunities, community and cultural gatherings including but not limited to events coordinated by UBC, National Aboriginal Council of Midwives, Midwives Association of BC Committee for Indigenous Birthing, and the local Indigenous communities.
- ii) Acknowledge that time off for community and cultural gatherings as above is a fundamental part of Indigenous life and education and that time off required for events is in addition to allocated protected time off as per UBC placement policy. As such the preceptor will team with the student and course tutor to ensure their placement requirements are met.
- iii) Encourage student's self-integration into the community to the degree to which the student is both interested and comfortable.

INDIGENOUS STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Indigenous students will notify the clinical course tutor and the primary preceptor during the first week of the term of any planned cultural and community activities that will take them away from the regular academic schedule. In the event that students are required to attend unexpected ceremonies or significant community events, students are required to notify the clinical course tutor and the primary preceptor as soon as possible. Indigenous students will work with the primary preceptor to adjust clinical placement hours around cultural and clinical activities so that the student meets course competencies.

Indigenous students with questions about Designated Clinical Placement or needing information or support are encouraged to contact the Midwifery Indigenous Student Coordinator.

TERM

This Designated Clinical Placement Procedure for Indigenous Students document will be revised collaboratively every 5 years or as needed by the roles and committees listed below:

- Midwifery Indigenous Student Coordinator
- Other Indigenous advisors or Elders appointed to a review committee
- UBC Midwifery Clinical Placement Lead
- UBC Undergraduate Program Lead
- UBC Midwifery Program Director

Changes to the procedure require the approval of the UBC Midwifery Faculty.

Midwives and midwifery teams are not required to become a Designated Clinical Placement for Indigenous Students, rather those that are interested and meet the criteria are encouraged to come forward to the Placement Coordinator to be included on the list.

REVISIONS AND APPROVAL

The development of the Designated Clinical Placement for Indigenous Students was released in July of 2018 as a collaborative effort by:

Misty Wasyluk, RM, UBC Midwifery Program Placement

Coordinator Indigenous students of the UBC Midwifery Program

Jessica St-Jean, Indigenous Representative of the UBC Midwifery Student's Association

Midwives Association of British Columbia Committee for Indigenous Birthing

Evelyn George, RM, Indigenous Lead of the Midwives Association of British Columbia

Revised November 2021 by Evelyn George, UBC Midwifery Indigenous Student Coordinator
Midwifery Faculty Review and Approval: 24 December 2021

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