

December 12, 2018

To: Practice Education Coordinators  
Midwifery Preceptors

From: Ontario Midwifery Education Program and Student Workload Committee

Re: Student Workload Policy Revisions

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Dear Practice Education Coordinators and Preceptors,

As you are aware, the Ontario Midwifery Education Program (OMEP) has been working to address challenges with student clinical workload in midwifery placements. Over the past 18 months, extensive consultation has taken place with students, preceptors and faculty as we have strategized to balance avoiding excess workload with the goals of providing adequate learning experiences to achieve competency and meet CMO requirements.

The following OMEP policy changes will be implemented as of January 2, 2019:

**1. ACADEMIC DAY:** Students will no longer have 3 hours off call for tutorial and 4 hours of protected study time each week. Instead, students will have an off call 24-hour academic day commencing each Thursday at 1700 hrs.

**2. PLANNING NUMBERS:** Planned birth numbers have been revised for each placement (see *Guide to Planning Clinical Opportunities* table below). New categories have been added that define minimum numbers for attended primary and second births and maximum numbers for attended second births. The total attended births for the Clerkship have been increased by one from 15 to 16. The maximum planned birth numbers have also been increased to address concerns raised by preceptors regarding missed births during the academic day. Practices are encouraged, whenever possible, to plan for the maximum planned birth numbers. Preceptors should be in touch with the tutor as early as possible in the clinical placement if they have concerns about birth numbers as practices implement the new academic day and student fatigue policies.

**3. WEEKLY VISITS:** The average number of visits per week has been increased from 15 to 20 and continues to include both prenatal and postnatal visits.

**4. STUDENT FATIGUE:** Students have a professional obligation to be rested while on call. They must plan study time and family responsibilities to ensure they maintain adequate rest. The current policy that provides students to be off-call for 8 hours after working 'non-stop for 24 hours' has been revised and clarified. The new policy provides students with 12 hours off call when they have been awake for 24 hours.

**5. DAYS OFF CALL PER MONTH:** Please note that the policy for student off call time per month remains unchanged. It is defined as 4 days off call per month away from the placement, with an additional 4 days off call during the longer Normal Childbearing placement.

We are aware that some of these policy changes are a significant alteration and will require adaptation by preceptors and midwifery practice groups. We encourage preceptors to contact their student's tutor with questions or concerns, and practice education coordinators to contact the placement coordinator at their affiliated university. The OMEP is planning to request feedback on the implementation of these policy revisions in the coming months. For preceptors who have not yet read the full *Student Workload Report and Recommendations*, it has been distributed to all midwifery practice groups. You may also contact your affiliated university to receive a copy.

Your support and participation in the education of Ontario student midwives is deeply appreciated.

The OMEP and the Student Workload Committee

### REVISED Guide to Planning Clinical Opportunities

Course	Length	Continuity	Observed	Primaries		Seconds			TOTAL Minimum		TOTAL Maximum	
	Weeks in Placement	Planned	Planned	Planned	Minimum Attended	Planned	Minimum Attended	Maximum Attended	Planned	Attended	Planned	Attended
Intro to Midwifery			≥ 2									
Normal Childbearing	17	12	2	≥ 14	12	≥ 6	6	12	22	18	32	30
Third Year	*18-24	0	No limit	No limit	NA	No limit	NA	NA	NA	**<5	No limit	No limit
Complications & Consultation	12	≥ 7	0	≥ 12	10	≥ 6	4	8	18	14	24	22
Maternal & Newborn Pathology	13	≥ 18	0	≥ 12	10	≥ 6	4	8	18	14	24	22
Clerkship	13		0	≥ 12	10	≥ 8	6	10	20	***16	26	24
<b>TOTAL</b>		≥ 37	4	50	42	26	20	38	78	62-67	106	98

Blue shading indicates new categories added

\* Total length of third year placements varies by MEP site: McMaster 18 weeks; Laurentian and Ryerson 24 weeks

\*\* This number may be supervised by a physician or anyone other than an Ontario midwife for CMO registration

\*\*\* This number has been increased from 15 to 16