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1. A Note to **PARA's** Graduating Resident Physicians

PARA extends our best wishes to all of Alberta's graduating resident physicians. We wish you success and happiness as you move forward in your careers as fully licensed physicians. Congratulations! You've earned it!

2. **PARA** - Know Your Contract: Letters of Understanding

PARA allows for reasonable divergence in scheduling expectations by way of contract exceptions formalized through Letters of Understanding. Letters of Understanding are approved altered call requests that are initiated by and have the support of all the resident physicians in a given program. Consideration may also be given to individual resident physicians on a case-by-case basis. These understandings primarily occur in the scheduling of home call or night float. These requests are considered for approval if they are requested by and have the support of resident physicians, are proposed for reasons of enhanced wellness and better work/life balance in coordination with improved patient care. These contract modifications can be requested for the following:

- Consecutive days home call
- Long weekend consecutive call
- Weekend call split shifts
- Night float or floating call service

The contract modification is subject to review throughout its one-year term. Resident physicians subject to a letter of understanding maintain the right to grieve a contract violation if, at any time, they no longer wish to comply with the letter. Letters of understanding expire at the end of the contract year. Existing letters of understanding will require renewal. If you have questions about letters of understanding, please contact the **PARA** office.



Reminder: The deadline for submitting taxi reimbursement claims for this quarter is June 30. **PARA** members can claim for rides taken after in-house call shifts (resident physicians must be able to present an on-call schedule confirming their on-call shift upon request) if they are too tired to drive.

The Taxi Reimbursement Program exists to ensure

resident physicians make it home safely when too tired to drive. The **PARA** Tax Reimbursement Program was negotiated by your residents' association to contribute to resident physician and community safety and as an opportunity for **PARA** to exemplify resident well-being as one of our valued priorities. We are all responsible for making sure that, when we need it, the benefit is available for those of us who are at the greatest risk from a motor vehicle collision.

The sustainability of Tax Reimbursement Program is dependant upon the collective prudence (good sense) of its users. **PARA** encourages all of its members to reflect on the spirit in which this benefit was created, **which was to guard the safety of our membership and our community**. Resident physicians who access this benefit should self-assess for fatigue prior to accessing the benefit.

Reimbursement payments for this quarter will be mailed July 15. Submissions that are received after the cut off date will be processed for the following quarter. Quarterly reimbursements do not exceed \$200/ Quarter/ Resident. In the event that the quarterly budget is exceeded resident payments will be pro-rated.

3. 2010 **PARA** Negotiation Team

We are happy to report that each member of the negotiation committee who expressed intent to be a member of the 2010 **PARA** Negotiation Team was confirmed by the Board. The 2010 **PARA** Negotiation Team will be as follows.

Resident Representatives:

Dr. Riley Boyle, Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine, PGY2, University of Alberta
Dr. Michelle Carle, Ophthalmology, PGY4, University of Alberta
Dr. Brock Debenham, Radiation Oncology, PGY3, University of Alberta
Dr. Kenman Gan, Ophthalmology, PGY4, University of Alberta
Dr. Diana Hong, Family Medicine, PGY2, University of Calgary
Dr. Shaun Loewen, Radiation Oncology, PGY4, University of Alberta
Dr. Jillian Schwartz, Family Medicine, PGY2, University of Calgary
Dr. Mayank Singal, Community Medicine, PGY1, University of Alberta
Dr. Rhett Taylor, Diagnostic Radiology, PGY1, University of Alberta

Staff Representatives:

Ms. Tana Findlay, Staff
Ms. Sarah Thomas, Staff
Dr. Ryan Wright, Consultant

4. Message from AHS – Health Benefits

Effective July 1, 2010, all Alberta Health Services supplementary health, dental, and spending account programs (if applicable) will be administered by Alberta Blue Cross. This streamlining of providers means there will be NO CHANGE for resident physicians and your current ID card will remain in effect. New cards are likely to be issued in the new year. For more information, please see the AHS newsletter on the **PARA** website at http://www.para-ab.ca/upload/files/docs/benefits/82717_same%20ID%20Card_final.pdf.

5. Upcoming Events – Socials

- **PARA Graduation PARAtreat**

Date: Thursday, June 17th

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Hudson's (601 - 12 Ave SW)

RSVP to para-ab@shawbiz.ca on or before **June 17**.

For more information, please visit <http://www.para-ab.ca/news/events>

For more information on upcoming events visit **PARA's** events calendar online at <http://www.para-ab.ca/calendar.aspx>.

PARA is also trialing a new facebook page to allow resident physicians to RSVP for PARA events using their preferred method. You can find our page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=185755111347>. Feedback on the new site is welcome.

6. CMA, Royal College and CFPC announce the 2010 National Physician Survey

Survey of present and future physicians seeks clarity to improve Canada's health-care system.

(OTTAWA, May 17, 2010) Canada's three largest national health-care organizations announced today that the 2010 edition of the National Physician Survey (NPS) will be launched later this month as questionnaires and electronic invitations are distributed to physicians across Canada. Surveys of medical residents and students will follow in the fall. The collaboration of the Canadian Medical Association, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and The College of Family Physicians of Canada makes the NPS is the largest survey of current and future physicians undertaken in Canada, with approximately 90,000 individuals invited to participate this year. The 2010 edition will build on the success of two previous editions in 2004 and in 2007.

For complete details and background, please see <http://www.para-ab.ca/news.aspx?nID=453>

7. PARA's 2010 May Resident of the Month

Dr. Perbeer Grewal, Dermatology PGY 4, University of Alberta

A fellow resident had this to say about Dr. Perbeer Grewal:

Perry has been chief resident at the Division of Dermatology at the University of Alberta for the last year. His contribution to the program and to the well-being of his co-residents has been immense. Perry is an exceptional teacher who has the unique ability to explain complex matters in a simple way to junior and off-service resident physicians while still communicating a thorough understanding of disease processes to staff and senior residents. Perry dedicates a lot of his free time to making sure schedules are in order and teaching materials are prepared ahead of time and ensuring that no resident physicians are left behind in their training. He has been a fair-minded leader who would just as well be known as a good resident physician and a family man.

For this and previous months' Resident of the Month announcements, visit **PARA** online at <http://www.para-ab.ca/news/news-and-events/awards>.

Regards from,

Your **P**rofessional **A**ssociation of **R**esidents of **A**lberta