Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the capacity for residents to undertake half-day back family medicine activities during PGY3 training in accordance with the CFPC’s features of continuity of care and centredness in family medicine.

Policy:

1. Residents are strongly encouraged to incorporate one day every two weeks, or ½ day per week (depending on site) in a family medicine clinical setting. Half day backs may be focused on specific areas of family medicine. They may also be seen as an opportunity to teach more junior learners and to receive mentorship from GPs with a focused practice combined family practice.

2. Each program is asked to ensure that there is the capacity for residents to undertake half-day back type activities which will keep them in contact with the full scope of practice that embodies family medicine. The manner in which this is done in each program is discussed with the resident and their program director.

3. In addition to the traditional exceptions to attendance at half day back which include vacations, rotations out of town, post call, there may be additional rotations in which PGY-3 residents will be encouraged to limit their time off service. These rotations will be identified prior to the start of the academic year, such that appropriate changes to their schedule can be anticipated.

4. When possible, residents should not be on call or scheduled for a shift that extends past midnight the night prior to their half-day back. Family Medicine residents will be relieved of their clinical duties at noon on the day of their half-day back and will be expected to return by 18h to resume their on-call duties. If the residents are unable to be present physically at 18h, then it is their responsibility to have another resident cover “physically” for them until they return to their service.

Applicability: This policy applies to residents in Postgraduate year three (PGY3).