Safety in Practice Pregnancy Guidelines

In accordance with UTAS Safe to Practice Policy, through College of Health and Medicine (CHM) Professional Experience Placement (PEP) Safety in Practice requirements, all students must ensure that they have the capacity to safely undertake practice during their allocated PEP, including during pregnancy and post-delivery. CHM must also ensure that the health of students during pregnancy and post-delivery is not put at risk. As such, students who are pregnant cannot undertake PEP at some healthcare facilities, where patient/client behaviour, radiology and operating theatre procedures or infectious disease poses unacceptable risk.

The following guidelines outline CHM Safety in Practice requirements for students during pregnancy and post-delivery. Students will also be required to comply with individual PEP provider/facility policies.

**Pre-PEP**

Students who are pregnant:

- are required to disclose their pregnancy to their Program PEP Administrator/Coordinator;
- are required to have completed their pre-PEP vaccination requirements (discuss with their Obstetrician or GP). If unable to complete vaccinations, the student’s PEP will be deferred or the student may need to withdraw from the PEP unit and re-enrol the following year; and
- students must be **no more than** 36 weeks pregnant at the completion of PEP date. If students wish to attend PEP after 36 weeks, they must have a Safety to Practice Health Assessment Form completed by their Obstetrician or GP.
  
  Note: This must also comply with healthcare facility policy.

Program PEP Administrators/Coordinators may request the student to have an additional Health Assessment Form completed if any concerns with their pregnancy are identified or if they express concerns about their capacity to practice safely on PEP.

**Pregnancy from 20 weeks** needs to be disclosed to the Program PEP Administrator/Coordinator.

**During PEP**

Student attendance requirements for pregnancy related illness are the same as with general sickness.

Students can attend PEP 4 weeks post a normal vaginal delivery and 6 weeks post caesarean delivery, providing there are no existing post-natal health related issues. Should there be existing post-natal health concerns, students will be required to have a Health Assessment Form completed by their GP.

Program PEP Administrators/Coordinators can negotiate for students attending PEP post-delivery to have reasonable breaks to express milk, but the student cannot take the baby onsite or make any childcare arrangements with the PEP provider/facility.