



Policies and Procedures

Subject: Home Visits	
Created: June 2007	Revised: Feb 2018, May 2023, June 2026
Reviewed and approved by the Residency Program Committee: June 2026	Next review date: June 2029

Please see the Dalhousie Postgraduate Medical Education [Resident Safety Policy](#).

The provision of care to individuals in a variety of care settings is a cornerstone of Family Medicine. Competency in conducting home visits is identified as a Family Medicine objective and must be encouraged in a manner that is mindful of both resident and patient safety.

PGY1s should not be expected to conduct home visits unaccompanied by either a senior resident (PGY2 or higher) or the supervising physician.

For senior residents (PGY2 or higher), unaccompanied home visits during normal working hours – as defined by the Maritime Resident Doctors collective agreement – are appropriate. Faculty must be available by telephone, and to provide back-up to the resident in person, should the situation dictate. If a resident wishes, for personal or patient safety reasons, to request another person to accompany them, this should be arranged promptly and without question.

In principle, residents should not make unaccompanied home visits after hours, unless the resident is very comfortable with the situation.

Note: the accompanying person does not need to be a staff physician (i.e. senior resident, allied health professional).