

MEDICAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENT DOCTORS

MEDICAL STUDENTS

Medical students are an integral part of the care at BC Women's Hospital, which is the main centre for teaching maternity care at UBC's Medical School. These students are in their final year of studies and they are ready to practice what they have learned. Their opportunity to learn depends completely on the willingness of labouring women to allow them to be included in the care team.

If you are willing, one medical student will be involved in your care under the supervision of your doctor. The student usually meets you soon after you arrive at the hospital and hopes to follow your complete labour and birth. They will review the notes that your doctor has taken during the pregnancy and ask a few questions to become familiar with your health history, and discuss your birth plan with you. They may perform a very brief physical examination, which includes listening to your heart, taking blood pressure, feeling your abdomen to check the position of the baby, and listening to the baby's heart. When your doctor is present they may perform an internal (vaginal) examination to check how your labour is progressing. Throughout the labour the student will see you often, will help the nurse care for you with comfort measures, and will check on the health of you and your baby. When it is time for the baby to be born the students appreciate being able to assist you and the doctor. Everything that the student does is supervised by your doctor. At the birth the doctor is right beside the student guiding them at each step.

There are several reasons why we encourage you to have a medical student. The students are generally very enthusiastic and excited to be involved at this special time. They are sensitive to your privacy needs and special requests. With a student in the room you may learn more about your labour along with the student. The FPMS doctors are committed to helping young doctors learn the skills they need to work in maternity care. We hope to inspire them to include maternity care in their practice in the future. Finally, our daughters need us to help teach the doctors of tomorrow, so that our children can have qualified and caring people to look after them.

As always your wishes will be respected. You have a choice about when and how you may want to include a medical student. Please feel free to discuss this with your doctor. If you are willing, we appreciate your generosity in allowing students to help with your care, and we strive to make your care the best it can be.

FAMILY PRACTICE RESIDENTS

Family Practice Residents are graduate doctors who are completing their training in the specialty of Family Practice. They have more experience than medical students and many are just about to begin practice on their own. They would take a greater role in your care since they have more experience and are able to be more independent. Your doctor is actively involved in their supervision.

OBSTETRICAL RESIDENTS, PEDIATRIC RESIDENTS, AND ANESTHESIA RESIDENTS

BC Women's Hospital is a teaching hospital for doctors at all levels of training. There are resident doctors who work in the specialties of Obstetrics (surgical and high risk maternity care), Paediatrics (babies and children), and Anaesthesia (pain control for labour such as epidural, and for surgery). A resident is a graduate doctor who is training in a particular specialty. The resident doctors are supervised by the specialists in their field. Generally, when a specialist is part of your care team, the specialist's resident is, too. Of course the specialist will make sure that the care by the resident doctor meets the standards of their profession.