

**STATEMENT 3.2.35 – PREGNANCY DURING CLERKSHIP**  
**Undergraduate Medical Education**

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Clerkship &amp; Electives Committee</b>
<b>Date of original approval:</b>	<b>February 2014</b>
<b>Date of last review:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Date of next scheduled review:</b>	<b>August 2014</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

In accordance with an emphasis on progressive support services for our students and residents, Western University and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry recognize that pregnancy during Clerkship could present difficulties in the completion of the training program. In such cases, it may be beneficial to the student, the school, and the hospital to have the workload modified somewhat because of the physical limitations caused by pregnancy to enable the student to continue training with minimal interruption.

**II. STATEMENT**

- a.** The current policies governing pregnancy during medical school include provision for leave of a year or a shorter period (four weeks). Leave is voluntary and the decision to undertake leave is at the discretion of the student.
  - i.** In the event that pregnancy occurs during Clerkship, consideration needs to be made as to when students should be excused from certain clinical activities.
    - 1.** On-Call Expectation: students who are pregnant will be excused from overnight call from the 31<sup>st</sup> week of gestation onward.
    - 2.** Emergency Rotation: students who are pregnant should not be exposed to certain gases used as treatment in the ER. This rotation may be moved to another time to ensure safety.
    - 3.** Surgery & ObsGyn: students who are 31 weeks or further along in their pregnancy should not be made to stand for long periods of time in the OR.
  - ii.** For educational experiences that are call-dependent, the Rotation Director will be responsible for ensuring that alternate educational experiences are made available to the student.
  - iii.** As the planning for relief from call and for alternate educational experiences takes some time, notification of need for relief and educational experiences should be made to the LEW office at the earliest opportunity.
- b.** Students who require additional information or assistance should contact the Learner Equity & Wellness Office.