

Toronto Safe Ride Program FAQ



1. Who can access a Safe Ride Home?

This program will reimburse University of Toronto residents for safe ride-home services (such as taxis or ride share (Uber & Lyft)) if they are too fatigued to safely drive the vehicle they came to work in back home after working an extended shift related to on call duties.

2. What is the eligibility criteria?

1. Must have worked an overnight call period or an overnight shift longer than 12 hours
2. Must have their car driven to the hospital and have proof of parking
3. The ride must start from the hospital where the call or shift was worked, with the resident's home as the destination
4. Must provide proof of payment showing the date and time of travel
5. Must feel too fatigued to safely drive home
6. Must have considered other options before using the program

3. What is the annual budget cap for the program?

A \$100 cap per resident, per annum should be implemented consistent with what several other Ontario sites are providing. This will ensure equal access to the program for hospitals that have a significantly larger number of residents at their site.

4. How will hospitals prevent misuse of the program?

Requests should be reviewed and monitored by administrators to determine if there are systemic issues occurring and hospitals should feel encouraged to enforce the eligibility criteria. Periodic audits will occur to determine ongoing need for the program and identify systemic trends that may require other solutions to mitigate fatigue and address trainee wellness. Trainees who are not utilizing the program as intended will be required to repay costs.

5. What types of rides may not be reimbursed?

- Rides that exceed the \$100 per resident annual cap
- Submissions for destinations that are not the resident's home address
- Rides home for residents who have not driven to the hospital

6. How does the Safe Ride Program differ from the taxi/ride share reimbursement that the PARO-OTH agreement (Section 19.7) already provides for?

The Safe Ride Program is separate from the existing provisions outlined in the PARO-OTH Collective Agreement.

Article 19.7 provides that if during the course of their clinical duties, residents are required to travel between sites or to return to a site, then the **resident will be reimbursed for the cost of parking associated with the time spent at the second or subsequent sites**, provided that the distance travelled between sites exceeds one (1) kilometre.

Additionally:

b) In circumstances where:

- i. a resident is on Out of Hospital Call and can respond within the hospital's Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) approved rules and regulations regarding specified response time,
- ii. the resident does not have a parking pass, and
- iii. the requirement to attend for clinical duties occurs after 6 pm and before 6 am

the Hospital will pay taxi charges to a maximum of \$70.00 per month on presentation of appropriate receipts.

The Safe Ride Home Program is specifically for trainees who are managing fatigue and cannot safely drive home following their call shift.

7. Will the program reimburse parking expenses if I leave my vehicle parked overnight at the hospital?

Costs for overnight parking will be the responsibility of the resident and must not be included in the amount eligible for reimbursement.

8. Will the program reimburse my ride back to the hospital to pick up my vehicle?

At this time, the Safe Ride Program provides for a one-way taxi ride home for residents who are too fatigued to safely drive home. It is the responsibility of the resident to retrieve their vehicle the following day.