

# Practice Education Guidelines for BC Vehicle Ride-Along/Use

GL#2-6

## Practice Guideline

March 22, 2007

Receiving Agency staff, medical staff or contracted personnel who have students accompany them in a vehicle\*, as part of the workday, must be **appropriately licensed** and insured to do so.

Students are not permitted to operate Receiving Agency vehicles unless authorized **in writing** by a designated manager.

When students are passengers in a Receiving Agency vehicle, written authorization from the Receiving Agency and/or Placing Agency **must** be obtained prior to travel.

## Guideline Details

Modes of transportation used as part of the workday may include motor vehicle, airplane, helicopter, boat, etc.

If students are asked to operate a Receiving Agency vehicle as part of their practice responsibilities, both the student and the faculty need to ask for clarification of the insurance coverage provided by the Receiving Agency.

Generally, students should not be allowed to operate Receiving Agency vehicles. All potential risks and sound judgment need to be considered in any given situation prior to agreeing to allow the student to operate a Receiving Agency vehicle.

In the event of an incident, accident, or damage to property, staff and students must report the event accordingly (refer to [Practice Education Guideline – Incident Reporting](#)).

## Roles & Responsibilities

### Receiving Agency:

- Set policy related staff and/or Receiving Agency vehicle usage.
- When the Receiving Agency owns the vehicle, appropriately insure the vehicle to cover transportation and/or use of the vehicle by students.
- When staff/contracted personnel own the vehicle and use it for work, that person must obtain the appropriate rate class\* of insurance and adequate third party liability insurance.

### Placing Agency:

- Set policy related to student use of own vehicle, student as passenger, and student as operator of Receiving Agency vehicle during a practice education experience.

## Consequences of Non-compliance

Should there be inadequate insurance, there is a risk that either the staff member or Receiving Agency may be held liable for costs that result from an injury or disability to the student.

\* indicates term is defined under 'Definitions' section

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## Rationale

Health care services are delivered across BC and require various methods of transportation. Part of the learning objectives for a course may include or be enhanced by a community experience where students accompany staff during the workday. Some Receiving Agencies own vehicles for use by staff and, in turn, may provide the same use by students depending on the circumstances and location of the placement. Appropriate insurance protects the Receiving Agency, the staff member and the student in the event of an accident causing injury or damage to property.

It is impossible to list all possible liability situations that may arise related to these situations. All parties need to be aware of the risks and potential for liability when faced with 'in-the-moment' decisions.

## Definitions

**Vehicle:** a conveyance that transports people or objects (includes motor vehicles, aircrafts, boats).<sup>1</sup>

**Rate class:** is an insurance category based on how the vehicle is used, which partly determines what your insurance will cost you.<sup>2</sup>

**Third Party Liability:** in legal terms, some third "party" in addition to you (first party) and your insurer (second party). When someone talks about a third-party claim against you, that means you are being sued by a person who holds you responsible for injuring them or damaging their property. The person suing can be your own passenger in a crash you caused. The damage you cause to another person - the third party - is covered under Third-Party Legal Liability insurance.<sup>3</sup>

## References

1. WordNet ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University. <http://dictionary.reference.com/> Retrieved May 5, 2006.
2. Insurance Corporation of BC. How are my premiums set? North Vancouver, BC. [http://www.icbc.com/insurance/insura\\_prmset\\_ratcla.asp](http://www.icbc.com/insurance/insura_prmset_ratcla.asp). Retrieved May 5, 2006.
3. bid. For You - Extended Third-Party Legal Liability. North Vancouver, BC. [http://www.icbc.com/insurance/insura\\_morcov\\_person\\_thpart.asp](http://www.icbc.com/insurance/insura_morcov_person_thpart.asp). Retrieved May 5, 2006.

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