Guidelines for pregnant undergraduate students of the Keele University School of Medicine

Pregnant students will generally be expected to fulfil the same requirements as all other students on the medical degree programme at Keele University School of Medicine. They will be required to reach the same academic standards and display the same level of professionalism as their colleagues. Attendance requirements in particular remain unchanged. If there are health complications arising from pregnancy, these will be considered in the same manner as health-related issues for all medical students.

The Undergraduate Medical School regularly reviews the risk of environmental exposure to medical students. Placement providers are asked to carry out a health and safety assessment of known pregnant students in line with their own policies. Where there is no evidence of risk arising from such exposure, students will be expected to attend these sessions and employ the usual universal precautions. A schedule of risk assessments for pregnant students and appropriate actions is attached as appendix 1.

Students who are pregnant are advised to inform the Student Support Service who will be happy to discuss the support needed during the pregnancy and draw up a suitable support plan, particularly with regard to applying to Health and Conduct Committee for any leave that is needed related to the pregnancy. Please note that plans cannot be put in place unless the student informs the School of their pregnancy and gives permission for appropriate staff to be informed.

Minor adjustments to assessments, for example toilet breaks, can be arranged after discussion with Student Support and the Assessments office.

Although there is no statutory requirement for the School to offer leave, it is happy to grant maternity and paternity leave of 2 weeks following receipt of relevant documentation and a documented plan to remediate any missed learning opportunities. In addition, the School is happy to consider requests for extended leave at a Health and Conduct Committee. Please note that due to the structure of the course, extended leave, where agreed, is likely to be granted as a one year block.

In drawing up these guidelines we have taken note of the Equality Act and have used the recommendations of the Equality Challenge Unit at http://www.ecu.ac.uk/publications/files/student-pregnancy-and-maternity-implications-for-heis.pdf

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Appendix 1.

Schedule of Risk Assessments for Pregnant Students

Low or No Risk:
The common chemicals encountered in the laboratory or dissection room setting.

*Action*: None required.

Practicals involving mild exertion

*Action*: Participate at own discretion

Moderate Risk:
Contact in the clinical setting with any undiagnosed patients with pyrexia and a rash.

*Action*: Inform GP or occupational health

High Risk:
Contact in the clinical setting with patients who are known to have viral infections which are potentially dangerous to the unborn child such as cytomegalovirus or rubella.

*Action*: All female students should check their vaccination status particularly with regard to rubella

Laboratory practicals involving pharmacologically active agents

*Actions*: Avoid being subject