



Supervision of Medical Students in Clinical Learning Environments

Effective Date: February 18, 2020

Last Revision: January 21, 2020

Policy Owner: Office Educational Affairs

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Reason for Policy: This policy outlines the requirements to be followed when supervising medical students.

Policy Statement: Drexel University College of Medicine recognizes and supports the importance of graded and progressive responsibility in medical student education. The college's goal is to promote safe patient care and maximize students' development of skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to enter the practice of medicine.

Scope: All students and faculty at the College of Medicine

Procedures:

Supervising Physician Definition

An attending physician employed by the College of Medicine; a community/rural attending physician with a faculty appointment at the College of Medicine; a resident or fellow physician training in a graduate medical education program at or associated with the College of Medicine or any of the College's clinical affiliates.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the supervising faculty member and/or site director to assure that the specifications of this policy are followed for all medical students of Drexel University College of Medicine.

Allied Healthcare Providers

When a medical student is participating in a private practice setting in which allied healthcare providers are present, it is the responsibility of the supervising faculty physician to assure that the allied healthcare providers are appropriately credentialed and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

When a medical student is participating in a hospital-based practice, it is assumed that all allied healthcare providers employed are appropriately credentialed by the hospital and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

Supervision Levels

- **Direct Supervision, With Supervising Physician Present:** The supervising physician is physically present with the medical student and the patient and is prepared to take over the provision of patient care if/as needed.
- **Direct Supervision, With Supervising Physician Available:** The supervising physician is on-duty and is available to provide direct supervision.

Clinical Supervision

- In the clinical setting (in-patient or out-patient), MS 1 and 2 students will be **directly supervised with the supervising physician present or with the supervising physician available** and MS 3 and MS 4 students will be **directly supervised with supervising physician available**.
 - Faculty physicians will identify those patients for whom initial medical student supervision may be provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed allied healthcare providers.
 - Medical Students, in the course of their educational curriculum, may take patient histories and perform complete physical examinations.
 - Year 3 and year 4 medical students may enter findings in the medical record of the patient with the approval of the patient's supervising physician.
 - The supervising physician will review medical student documentation and provide feedback for educational purposes.
 - Clinical decisions and orders are never formulated or enacted by medical students without a supervising physician's input.
- All on-call experiences in which medical students participate are subject to the supervision rules described above.

Procedure Supervision

- Medical students may be assigned and directed to provide additional patient care services under the direct supervision of a supervising physician.
- A supervising physician is required to directly supervise (physician present or available) all procedures (clinical, in-patient bedside, emergency department, and/or operating room) in which a medical student is involved.
- The degree of supervision (direct supervision with supervision physician present or available) will consider the complexity of the procedure, potential for adverse effects, and the demonstrated competence, maturity and responsibility of each student in order to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient.
- The supervising physician must have privileges or authorization to perform the procedure being supervised.

Policy Monitoring

The director of the clerkship or course is responsible for developing and communicating standard procedures through which students can report concerns regarding adequate and appropriate supervision of what they may deem a violation of this policy. Procedures may include, but are not limited to, the online Mistreatment/Professionalism reporting site (to report mistreatment or negative

learning environment), direct reporting to a clerkship or course director or coordinator, and documenting concerns in course or clerkship evaluations at the end of the course or clerkship.

Distribution

This policy is distributed to all faculty of Drexel University College of Medicine including clerkship directors, residency program directors, fellowship directors, and community/rural faculty preceptors.