

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

SUBJECT: Clinical Supervision Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- A. To ensure that medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are appropriately supervised at all times, in order to ensure patient and student safety.
- B. To ensure that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his or her level of training, with a progressively increasing level of responsibility.
- C. To ensure that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.
- D. To ensure the UH College of Medicine complies the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards for the medical education program, including LCME Standard 9.3

II. BACKGROUND

Meaningful involvement in patient care is critical to medical student education and training. This must be accomplished in a way that ensures patient and student safety and is at the appropriate level of responsibility for each individual student.

III. POLICY

A. Supervision in Clinical Care

- 1. Medical students are never permitted to be the sole provider of care and must be supervised at all times by licensed providers practicing within their scope of practice.
- 2. When a medical student is being supervised by a resident, fellow, or other health care professional who is providing care under a supervising physician, it is the responsibility of the supervising physician to ensure that the resident or other health care professional is prepared and aware of how to teach and supervise a medical student appropriately.
- 3. The amount of direct supervision and observation required in each patient encounter will vary based on the clinical situation, the student's experience, skill, and maturity, as well as the specific rotation, and the student's progress through the University of Houston College of Medicine curriculum.
- 4. Medical student participation in clinical procedures requires direct supervision by the supervising physician or health care professional. The supervising physician or health care professional must have the privileges and authorization to perform the procedure.
- 5. Assisting in or performing clinical procedures may only be performed when the supervising physician or health care professional agrees that the student has achieved the required level of competence, maturity, and responsibility to perform the clinical procedure.

B. Dissemination and Education Related to This Policy

Faculty and students are informed of the following at orientations to the clinical setting

- 1. The appropriate level of student responsibility in the clinical settings to which the students will be assigned.
- 2. The appropriate level of clinical supervision required in the clinical settings to which the students will be assigned, including supervision by residents, fellows, faculty, and other health care professionals.

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3. Explicit guidelines stating that faculty, residents, and other health care professionals are not allowed to supervise medical students in areas of practice that are outside their own scope of practice.

C. Reporting Instructions

1. If a student feels that he/she is in or will be in a situation with an inappropriate level of responsibility or supervision, they should report without fear of retaliation.

Options for reporting include:

- a. Contacting and discussing the situation with the Course/Clerkship Director and Site Director/Primary Preceptor.
 - b. Contacting and discussing the situation with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach.
 - c. Submitting a mistreatment report ([Student Mistreatment Reporting Form](#)). Please see Student Mistreatment [Policy for further details of the process and procedures](#).
2. Allegations of student violations will be investigated by the course/clerkship director or Associate Dean for Medical Education, or designee, who will discuss violations with involved parties and provide counsel as necessary to prevent further violations. Confirmed violations may be addressed under the Code of Professional Conduct and may lead to disciplinary action.
 3. Allegations of Faculty/facility violations will be considered by the Learning Environment Committee. Confirmed violations may lead to disciplinary action.

IV. MONITORING OF THIS POLICY

The Office of Medical Education will monitor this policy.

Approval History		
<i>Approver</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
Transitional Curriculum Committee	Approved	September 12, 2018
Curriculum Committee	Approved	April 8, 2020
Review by UH Office of General Counsel	Approved	July 7, 2021

Document History	
Date Created	September 12, 2019
Date Last Modified	July 7, 2021
Responsible Office	Medical Education
Next Scheduled Review Date	May 2022
Stakeholder Communication Method and Date	
Revision History/Purpose	July 7, 2021 structural modifications only