

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

SUBJECT: Student Medical Care and Conflict of Interests Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- To specify policy and procedures for University of Houston College of Medicine students receiving health care, including psychiatric/psychological counseling, at the University of Houston Student Health Center and the University of Houston Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).
- To ensure the University of Houston College of Medicine complies with Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation standards for the medical education program, including LCME Standard 12.5.

II. BACKGROUND

University of Houston College of Medicine students are eligible to receive health care at the UH Student Health Center and the University of Houston Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

III. POLICY

A. Student Health Center (SHC) Healthcare Professionals

The health care professionals in the SHC and CAPS are not affiliated with the University of Houston College of Medicine and have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of medical students. No UH medical students or other learners rotate through these clinics as part of their UH COM training. Student health information maintained by the SHC and CAPS is private and is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Student health information maintained by the SHC and CAPS is private and is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and/or applicable health privacy laws. No medical records are kept in the Office of Student Affairs.

B. Faculty Clinicians

In order to ensure fairness in evaluation, healthcare professionals regardless of practice location, who are involved in the academic assessment or promotion of a medical student should not provide health services, including medical care or psychiatric/psychological counseling (except in the case of emergency), to any medical student while serving, or in reasonable anticipation of serving, in the role of supervisor, teacher, preceptor or evaluator of the student.

C. Conflict of Interest

1. A healthcare professional who has a real or potential conflict of interest should not serve in the role of supervisor, preceptor, or assessor for the purposes of assessment, grading, or promotion of a specific medical student.
2. Examples of potential conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to:
 - A medical student being supervised by a family member
 - The supervising physician having a business relationship with the student or student's immediate family members
 - The supervising physician having a pre-existing doctor/patient relationship with the medical student or the student's immediate family

SUBJECT: Student Medical Care and Conflict of Interests Policy

3. Students will be expected to disclose potential conflicts of interest under this policy with the clerkship/course director prior to the beginning of the clerkship or course so that reassignments can be made if necessary. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach (ADSAAO) will review potential conflicts of interest. If he/she determines that a conflict is present, whether disclosed in advance or not, all efforts will be made to reassign them.

4. The student evaluation form that will be completed by preceptors/supervisors will include required documentation as to whether the preceptor/supervisor provided medical care to the student during the course/clerkship or whether there was any other conflict of interest. The course/clerkship director will review with the student and, if necessary, the ADSAAO any instances where such conflicts occurred to determine if any actions need to take place.

Approval History		
<i>Approver</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
Curriculum Committee	Approved	April 8, 2020
UH Office of General Counsel	Approved	March 3, 2021

Document History	
Date Created	
Date Last Modified	March 3, 2021
Responsible Office	Office of Student Affairs
Next Scheduled Review Date	May 2022
Stakeholder Communication Method and Date	
Revision History/Purpose	March 3, 2021: structural modifications only