



Clinical Supervision Policy

Summary of Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a supportive learning environment by defining the appropriate supervision of Geisel School of Medicine (“Geisel”) students when engaged in patient care activities at Geisel’s affiliated clinical sites.

Scope and Applicability

This policy applies to Geisel students, faculty and staff engaged in clinical education activities.

Definitions

Supervisor: Health care provider with an advanced degree who holds a Geisel appointment and is responsible for providing oversight, support and guidance to a medical student.

Direct Observation: Supervisor is physically present with the student and the patient.

Immediate Availability: Supervisor, while not physically present with the student and the patient, is immediately available to the student and the patient at the site of care to provide direct supervision.

Policy Statement

Medical students, while they may participate in clinical activities, may not render unsupervised patient care and/or services. Appropriate supervision of Geisel students in connection with their participation in clinical activities is ultimately determined by the Supervisor in accordance with the terms of any applicable affiliation agreement. This supervision may include Direct Observation or Immediate Availability, as may be appropriate in any given situation. This determination shall be based on the following factors: level of training, prior experience of the student, Supervisor familiarity with ability of the student, acuity and sensitivity of situation, and level of risk to the patient.

Supervisors will model professional behavior, provide opportunities for students to demonstrate responsibility for patient care, provide regular feedback to students, notify Clerkship or Course Directors of serious performance gaps, and complete any required student assessments in a timely manner.

In performing their duties hereunder, Supervisors must be operating within their scope of expertise or practice.

Procedure

1. The Clerkship or Course Director will communicate policies and procedures related to supervision to Supervisors participating in their course electronically.
2. The Clerkship or Course Director will communicate policies and procedures related to supervision to Geisel students during the clerkship or course orientation.
3. The Supervisor will review and verify student findings, assessments and care plans and be responsible for what level of supervision, either Direct Observation or Immediate Availability, is appropriate.
4. The Supervisor will at all times be responsible for all patient care and quality standards and will maintain a level of care that meets generally accepted standards conducive to quality instruction.
5. The Supervisor will ensure that all individuals engaged in clinical activities in which Geisel students are involved are acting within their scope of practice.
6. Students are expected to direct questions or concerns regarding adequate and appropriate supervision to the Course or Clerkship Director or to the Associate Dean for Clinical Education at Geisel.

Key Words

Clinical Supervision, Procedures

LCME Standard

Standard 9.3 – Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

A medical school ensures that medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are appropriately supervised at all times in order to ensure patient and student safety, that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his or her level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.

Related Information

University Documents

None.

Other Documents

AAMC Uniform Clinical Training Affiliation Agreement.

Related Links

None.

Policy Administration

Policy Number	UME-CURR.CE-0017	Effective	September 15, 2020
Authorized By	Associate Dean for Clinical Education	Written By	Associate Dean for Clinical Education
Approved By	Medical Education Committee	Date Approved	November 17, 2020
Date Reviewed	November 17, 2020	Date Revised	November 17, 2020
Responsible Office	Office of Clinical Education	Responsible Administrator	Director, Office of Clinical Education
Inform	Medical students, Faculty, House staff		

Policy Contact Information

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History

Date	History
September 15, 2020	Policy was created, reviewed, and approved by the Medical Education Committee.
November 17, 2020	Policy was reviewed and approved by the Medical Education Committee.

Background

None.