

Policy: Supervision of Medical Students

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION/DEPARTMENT/COMMITTEE
November 2016	November 22, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clinical Education Committee

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine that students in clinical settings be appropriately supervised at all times by an individual holding an active HWCOM faculty appointment. AY1 and AY2 students must be directly supervised at all times. AY3 and AY4 students may be directly or indirectly supervised, at the discretion of the supervising physician in accordance with the table attached.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all Academic Years of the program and to supervising faculty, residents, and healthcare professionals involved in medical student education.

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy relates to LCME Standard 9.3, Clinical Supervision of Medical Students, which states that: "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 the student's level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional."

This policy covers supervision of medical students in clinical settings.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Direct supervision	The supervising faculty is physically present with the student and patient.

Indirect supervision	The supervising physician is not physically present within the student and patient but is immediately available to provide direct supervision.
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RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Office of Medical Education
Clinical Education Committee

RELATED RESOURCES

LCME Standard 9.3

CONTACTS

Questions about this procedure should be directed towards the Associate Dean for Curriculum and Medical Education, Office of Medical Education.

POLICY HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: November 2016

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*):

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): November 22, 2024

Comments on Revision (*if applicable*):

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PROCEDURE STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of the supervising physician to ensure that policy standards are followed for all students participating in clinical activities.

In situations where medical students are participating in a clinical setting where residents, fellows, or other healthcare professionals are actively involved in student education, it is the responsibility of the supervising faculty physician to ensure that all such individuals are appropriately prepared for their roles in teaching and supervision of medical students within the scope of their practice.

When the supervising physician is not physically present in the clinical area, the responsibility for supervising medical students will be delegated to the appropriately prepared resident/fellow/healthcare professional at the discretion of that physician.

Please see attached table describing the level of student responsibility permitted and supervision requirement across the four years of medical school:

	M1	M2	M3	M4
Observe	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Perform History & Physical (Limited: No breast, rectal or genital exams performed by student.)				
Direct supervision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indirect Supervision	No	No	Yes	Yes
Perform procedures <i>not</i> requiring additional informed consent (e.g. nasogastric tube, IV, urinary catheter, etc)				
Direct supervision	No	No	Yes	Yes
Indirect supervision	No	No	No	No



Perform procedures requiring additional informed consent (e.g. thoracentesis, paracentesis, LP) or sensitive exams (e.g. breast, rectal, genital exams)				
Direct supervision	No	No	Yes	Yes
Indirect supervision	No	No	No	No
Surgery/Operating Room				
If preceptor is providing direct supervision, activities may include, but are not limited to retraction, holding instruments, bovie, final skin suturing, intubation, at the discretion of the preceptor.	No	No	Yes	Yes
Scrub-in (if scrub class complete and documented) (Note: Nicholas Children's Hospital does not permit M1/2 students in the operating room)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chart Documentation				
Student can write progress notes in the medical record (co-signed by preceptor) and draft orders (signed by preceptor).	No	No	Yes	Yes