

Supervision of Medical Students

Effective: August 8, 2017
Reviewed by GMEC: August 8, 2017
Initial Approval by GMEC: October 8, 2002

Statement

Medical students shall be supervised by appropriate members of the medical staff and work with assigned residents in patient care areas as the medical students pursue their education, abiding by Palmetto Health and USC School of Medicine policies.

Associated Policy (ies)

Lewis Blackman

Responsible Positions (Title)

Residents & Fellows
Medical Students
GME Office

Equipment Needed

None

Procedure Steps, Guidelines, Rules, or Reference

Policy:

1. Assignment to a clinical rotation is processed through the Office of Enrollment Services – Admissions of the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine (USC SOM) and the Department Chair/Clerkship Director or the medical staff member.
2. Students may participate only in clinical services where educational objectives have been developed and approved for credit.
3. The primary responsibility for the patient is vested with a teaching attending or medical staff and **may not** be delegated to a student.
4. Residents or fellows may participate in overseeing the educational process, but any supervising physician must have applicable credentials, privileges, and authorization in order to oversee each clinical activity or procedure.
5. Students must be clearly identified as such. When being introduced, the phrases “student doctor” or “medical student” are recommended. A nametag with the student designation will be worn at all times.
6. Utilization of Palmetto Health facilities is dependent upon following the procedures and guidelines as outlined in this policy.

Procedures:

1. M-III and M-IV medical students may record history and physical examinations and progress notes on the patient’s permanent medical record if clearly identified as “Student”. For electronic medical record entries, this means that the student must be signed on using their own unique user ID # and password. The student record may not substitute for the required history and physical examination or progress notes of an attending or

resident/fellow physician. The history and physical and progress notes recorded by a student must be co- signed by a faculty member or the attending physician responsible for the patient. The attending physician who countersigns the student entries verifies the content as being accurate and appropriate and shall sign as verified or the record will be rewritten or a note made clarifying any areas of question. M-III and M-IV students may scribe a physician order if the order is signed by the responsible resident/fellow or attending physician prior to the order being carried out.

2. All procedures are to be performed under supervision of either an attending faculty member who has privileges/authorization to perform the procedure or by a resident physician who has achieved competence to perform the procedure with indirect supervision. The degree of supervision must take into account the complexity of the procedure, potential for untoward effects, and the demonstrated competence, maturity and responsibility of each student in order to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient.
3. Each student will be assigned a unique medical center computer access code. Students MAY access the computer to obtain needed information on their patients with authorization through Medical Education, but ARE PROHIBITED from entering orders independently for laboratory tests, diagnostic tests, diagnostic procedures, x-rays, studies, medications, or diets.
4. Students may not sign as witnesses to authorizations or consents for procedures or surgery on patients cared for by them, or their team.
5. At the conclusion of each rotation, the supervising physician(s) will complete a written evaluation of the student, in the format provided by each department, for submission to the department Chair or Clerkship Director and/or designee.

Reference

None